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Tsai Ming-liang's Vive L'Amour opens.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 39 • 26 September 1996

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years ▼

LEATHER WEEK: SEPTEMBER 22-29



Welcome from Mr. SF Leather!

by Gary Virginia, Mr. San Francisco Leather 1996

A warm welcome to leather folk visiting from across the U.S. and abroad! Your participation is as vital to the success of Leather Week as it is for us "locals" to get out there and hit the scene.

The Bay Area Leather Community is unique in that we are large enough to have special interest activities while also recognizing that we are one big family. Our history is such that there are elders in this family who we hold in high esteem, as you would a wise grandparent. They are the pioneers, the creators of events like Folsom Street Fair, the founders of our million-dollar AIDS agencies, contest producers, and the support people who are there for us come hell or high water.

Our family also includes brothers and sisters who are our current titleholders. Their civic commitment and ambition are needed and appreciated as they volunteer hundreds of hours to improve the quality of life for all, not just for those in our leather tribe. Please honor them when you see them in vest or sash, by telling them who you are and where you're from. If you need general or emergency assistance, they will show their true colors and offer support.

You'll see many Daddies and Mommies, boys and girls, Masters and slaves, and every lifestyle and relationship imaginable. What you may not "see" is the loving relationships many of us have with each other, no matter our attire or personal affairs. This is a community of inclusion amidst our diversity.

We know we're fortunate to call San Francisco home, and we'd love for you to have a safe and memorable experience here. To old friends, welcome back; to new visitors, welcome aboard; and to the thousands of local leather women and men, I salute you. Enjoy!!! ▼



They're he-e-e-e-re!

by Mister Marcus

Rick Gerhardt

San Francisco's Leather Pride Week kicked off last Sunday when the Fifth Annual Leather Pride Walk got underway at Daddy's and the 1997 Bare Chest Calendar men were auctioned off at the Eagle later on. AEF's Leslie Ewing got a standing ovation when I introduced her at the Eagle. (Are you reading this, Jesse?)

Art Tomaszewski, creator of the Leather Walk fundraiser, was at the helm once again to rouse both local and out-of-town leather folk to gather pledges for the AIDS Emergency Fund and make the two-mile trek to the Eagle. He was very impressed with this year's group, the biggest so far. The walkers were accompanied by a color guard, and music was supplied by everyone's favorite,

David Kelsey. There were two hot SFPD motorcycle men accompanying the group, and all along the way, both straight and gay people cheered them on.

When the marchers arrived at the SF Eagle, they basked in well-deserved applause. They'd raised a whopping \$7,642! Roger Lutrell (Mr. Alameda Co. Leather) raised

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Butcher allegedly harasses gay man with meat

by Dennis Conkin

An openly gay butcher has filed a multi-million dollar job bias lawsuit against Bryan's Quality Meats, an exclusive California Street butcher shop, and its owners Peter and Terence Flannery.

The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court on September 5 by former Bryan's butcher Dwight Rogge, includes al-

legations that Rogge was sexually battered and the subject of repeated death threats by one co-worker, and harassed by others.

The civil complaint alleges that Rogge was repeatedly threatened with death and harassed by a Bryan's employee for more than a year.

"I'm going to kill you. I can't stand fags. You're nothing but a faggot. You are an asshole. That's all you eat. You take it up the butt," the worker allegedly told Rogge.

The worker also sexually battered Rogge

in May 1994 while Rogge was sitting down and working at his job, according to allegations detailed in the lawsuit.

The worker allegedly said, "I've got something to show you," as he lifted his butcher's apron to expose his penis, rammed Rogge with his hips, and knocked him to the ground, according to the complaint.

Attorney Gary Cloutier called the case "one of the most extreme that I've seen in my years of practice, in terms of the facts.

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The bustling counter at Bryan's Quality Meats at 3473 California Street.

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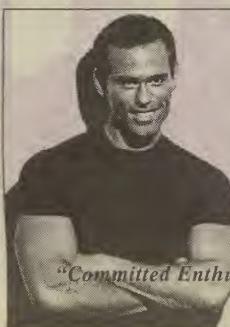
Your dentist must get all the information on your medical and dental history in order to make an evaluation of the overall health of your mouth. During your first visit you will be asked about your current symptoms and any past dental problems, such as whether you have been treated for gum disease. It is crucial for the dentist to know your medical history because certain health conditions, past surgeries, allergies, and medications can affect dental treatment.

The dentist will examine your teeth, gums, and gingival pockets to determine the overall health of your mouth and teeth. She/he will check your existing restorations as well as discuss any you may need. An essential part of the evaluation is called pocket charting, which is a system that measures the health of the gums around each tooth. The ultimate goal of such an evaluation is early detection and prevention of gum disease.

A good dentist will also do an oral cancer and soft tissue exam, a complete set of x-rays, ask about your brushing and flossing habits, and instruct you on proper technique if necessary.

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Kay Tsenin addresses former tax predicament

by Dennis Conkin

Lesbian attorney and candidate for Municipal Court judge Kay Tsenin confirmed last week that she was once delinquent in paying an estimated \$12,000 in federal and state taxes.

Tsenin acknowledged the now-resolved tax problems after she was contacted by *The Recorder*, a local legal newspaper, which said in a September 19 article that opponent Matthew Rothschild's campaign had provided copies of Tsenin's federal and state tax liens to the paper.

The news of Tsenin's past tax problems follow on the heels of a *Bay Area Reporter* report that deputy city attorney Rothschild, 38, defaulted on \$23,000 of student loans and \$35,000 of credit card debt in a 1990 Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

Rothschild was earning a salary of \$48,000 at the time of the bankruptcy.

Tsenin said that she had a federal tax lien for \$10,895 placed against her by the Internal Revenue Service in the "1980s" after she lent a close friend \$10,000 and was never paid.

Tsenin declined to discuss the details of the loan, except to state she paid the amount due the IRS for past due 1983 taxes and penal-



Kay Tsenin: "Lots of people get into financial hardship. It's how you deal with it that is the issue."

Rick Gerhardt

ties — and said that the agency made a bureaucratic error in not releasing the lien until 1990, seven years after she paid the bill.

Tsenin also had \$2,089 of state tax liens filed against her in 1989 and 1990, which were released after payment of the obligations in 1992.

Tsenin said the majority of her state income tax woes stemmed from an unsuccessful personal injury case she "sunk \$20,000 into."

"Lots of people get into financial hardship," Tsenin told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's how you deal with it that is the issue. I totally

paid off all of my back due taxes including penalties and interests. I didn't pay 15 cents on the dollar."

Tsenin was referring to candidate Rothschild's April 1990 Chapter 13 bankruptcy, which enabled him to pay creditors about \$9,000 for an estimated \$60,000 of defaulted student loans and credit card debts.

Rothschild's campaign said the bankruptcy was due to economic straits caused by Rothschild's financial support of a friend with AIDS who later died of the disease. ▼

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks volunteer law clerks for Oakland office

by Cynthia Laird

The Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service (GLRS) is seeking gay-sensitive law students, prospective law students, or those interested in the legal field to do volunteer work as law clerks at the GLRS office in Oakland.

GLRS law clerks operate the phone-in legal information and

attorney referral line. Clerks are trained to screen client calls and to make appropriate referrals.

Staff members said the volunteer work is an excellent opportunity to get first-hand legal experience, while at the same time making an important contribution to the gay and lesbian community. GLRS is a non-profit legal referral resource that serves the gay and lesbian community throughout

the greater Bay Area. The service currently responds to an average of more than 500 phone calls per month.

Callers to the service seek assistance in a wide range of legal issues, including employment discrimination, adoption, fair housing, and immigration. GLRS law clerks provide callers with lawyer referrals as well as information about legal services available to the lesbian and gay community.

Law clerks are required to commit to one three-hour shift per week at the GLRS office in downtown Oakland, near BART. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HRC urges city to cover workers' sex changes

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) last week requested that a city health administrative board explore providing insurance coverage of sex reassignment surgery for eligible transgender city workers.

On Friday, September 20, Supervisor Tom Ammiano met with HRC members to discuss the issue. HRC President Martha Knutzen said the next step is having the city's Health Service System Board look into the matter. The board administers the city's self-insurance program.

What makes it intriguing, Knutzen explained, is that by dealing with the city's self-insurance pool, insurance companies would not be involved, at least initially. However, she added the HRC will also look into determining whether the sex change coverage can be negotiated with insurance carriers utilized by the city.

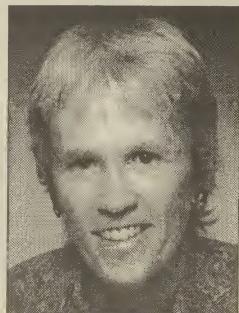
"The Health Service System Board has to approve it. We [HRC] wrote a letter to the board saying, 'Can we talk to you about this?' It seemed like the place to start," Knutzen told the B.A.R. "I think that's a reasonable thing to do."

The goal is to get insurance companies to cover hormonal treatments, sex change operations, and psychiatric evaluations for transgender city employees.

There are an estimated 6,000 transgender people residing in the city, based on testimony that took place during previous hearings concerning gender identity legislation, Knutzen said. Neither Knutzen nor Ammiano could say how many of those may be city employees.

"We haven't gotten that far," Knutzen said.

The Board of Supervisors in



Martha Knutzen.

transgender persons working for the city who would like this."

Ammiano said that the mainstream media has already reacted to the issue.

"There's an attempt already to belittle this," Ammiano told the B.A.R.

He said the plan is simple in concept and that the city's gender identity ordinance "extends to all functions of city government, including health coverage."

Sex reassignment surgery is expensive. According to Whitlock, male-to-female surgery can range from \$6,000 to over \$40,000, while female-to-male operations can run from \$20,000 to \$150,000. That doesn't include hormonal treatment and extensive psychiatric evaluations that are required prior to a person becoming eligible for surgery, she added.

Knutzen said she does not know when the health board will review the issue or make a decision. ▼

In 1994 approved an ordinance, signed by former Mayor Frank Jordan, making it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of gender identity. The ordinance became effective on January 30, 1995.

Knutzen said the matter of insurance coverage arose when members of the HRC's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender advisory committee along with people on the HRC transgender task force subcommittee requested the issue be examined.

"Transgender advocates on the committee asked the Human Rights Commission to look into this," Knutzen said. "We have transgenders active on the committee, and we're learning about their issues and what they have to go through to get operations."

Transgender rights activist Kiki Whitlock, an HRC lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender advisory committee member and former chair of the transgender task force, said she supports insurance coverage of sex reassignment procedures for city workers.

"I'm an advocate for that," Whitlock said. "There are many

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City looks into religious charities, discrimination

by Dennis Conkin

Concern over possible discrimination in services by service providers who are non-profit religious groups has led to the formation of the Religious Service Providers Task Force of the city's Human Rights Commission.

The HRC task force is seeking comments from clients who receive services from groups receiving funds from the city, including Episcopal Sanctuary, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, and similar agencies.

"The Task Force is charged with determining whether barriers exist between a contractor's religious philosophy and the delivery of services and employment practices," said task force coordinator and HRC staffer Larry Brinkin in a news release.

The group was formed at the request of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors following widespread concern over possible anti-gay discrimination by the Salvation Army.

In that incident, a Salvation Army officer issued a widely criticized statement denouncing ho-

mosexual sexual practices – and referred to homosexual sexual orientation as a form of mental and moral sickness.

After the flap, at the request of Supervisor Tom Ammiano, the Board of Supervisors briefly delayed a homeless services contract with the group.

A Salvation Army spokesman later apologized for the "unauthorized statement," pledged that the group did not and would not discriminate against gays, and appointed a gay man to the group's advisory board.

Members of the HRC group come from a variety of religious faiths, including Roman Catholic and Jewish community groups which receive funds from the city for providing services to people with AIDS, the homeless, substance abusers, mentally ill, and senior populations.

According to Brinkin, the group wants reports from current or former clients regarding bias on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, sex, disability or any other protected category. ▼

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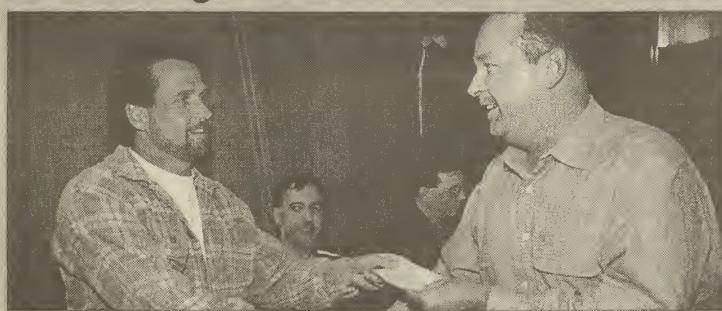
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IDS Benefits Counselors (ABC) Executive Director Paul Causey (right) receives a check for \$1,052 from Imperial Court reigning Emperor Steve Valone (left) at a recent ABC meeting. The check represents a portion of the proceeds from August's "An Affair to Remember," Emperors' Night Out 1996.

Preliminary hearing set in Parkison murder trial

by Dennis Conkin

An East Bay gay physician charged with murder-for-hire and his alleged accomplice are subjects of a Mt. Diablo Municipal Court preliminary hearing, to determine whether there is enough evidence to bind them over for trial in Contra Costa County Superior Court.

Dr. Gary A. Parkison was charged in April with soliciting the murder of Jim Swan, his former lover, after he allegedly made two payments for Swan's death to an undercover Concord police man posing as hitman.

Contra Costa County prosecutor Larry Barnes told Judge Walter Roger that Parkison sought to have Swan murdered because he feared the former lover would link him to a 1995 arson fire at the site

of a defunct executive search company he owned.

Parkison was also the beneficiary of Swan's \$430,000 insurance policy – which would have paid \$860,000 had he died an accidental death, according to news reports.

According to investigators, Parkison was arrested after making a videotaped final payment for the murder after being shown a faked photograph of Swan's strangled body.

Swan cooperated with police after they learned of the bizarre plot, and has been unavailable for media interviews.

Police linked Parkison to the arson after being contacted by Vickie Ramsey, a massage therapist who worked for the gay doctor.

Ramsey was asked by Parkison to find someone to set the 1995 fire to the site, but declined – and

later contacted authorities after Parkison allegedly asked her early this year to find someone to kill Swan.

Parkison was later charged for trying to hire the murders of Ramsey and Swan from jail.

Parkison was the subject of an exclusive jailhouse interview by the *Bay Area Reporter*, in which he said he had AIDS, complained of detention facility conditions, and said that although he "dearly loved" Swan, admitted that he "basically got crazy and was pushed into doing something to protect myself."

Parkison also claimed that he was "set up" by police and Ramsey, and complained that his \$10 million bail was excessive.

Michael Merrill is charged with conspiracy in the initial plot with Parkison. Both have pleaded not guilty to the charges. ▼

Rave raid testimony ends

...after 'befuddled' cop contradicts his own testimony

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco Police Commission will hear final arguments and issue disciplinary decisions on Wednesday, October 9 against four officers charged with misconduct during a January 1995 raid of a South of Market area AIDS fundraiser.

The commission concluded testimony from complainants and from the officers last Friday, September 20, after ten days of open hearings.

Police Sergeants John Haggett, Steve Bosshard, and Ed Santos and officer Hoyt Wong could be exonerated of the charges by the commission, or receive disciplinary action ranging from suspension to termination if found guilty of the misconduct charges.

The officers are charged with violating police regulations when they closed down the private New Year's Eve AIDS fundraiser at 938 Harrison Street, charging that it was an illegal party that was selling alcohol without permits – a charge that organizers say is false.

During the incident, complainants charged that police arrested them without probable cause and used unnecessary and unauthorized force in making the arrests. All charges were dropped against people arrested, and seven plaintiffs have filed a federal lawsuit against the city in the wake of the incident.

The charges against the four officers are the most serious to stem from OCC investigations, which include charges against other officers already referred to disciplinary action by Chief of Police Fred Lau. Under departmental rules, disciplinary cases against officers that could result in more than two weeks' suspension are handled by the commission, with the chief of police responsible for admonishments, reprimands, re-training, and suspensions of 1-10 working days.

Allegations against the officers include a charge that Bosshard intentionally lifted up one partygoer's skirt during an arrest to embarrass and harass him; that Wong threw one of the men arrested into a police van using unnecessary force; and that Haggett ground his boot into the side of a woman's head when she was prone on the ground following her arrest, and used other unnecessary force.

According to news accounts, Haggett testified before the commission that he charged a man with drunkenness because he'd forgotten why he wanted the suspect detained originally – and that several people arrested should have been ticketed by police and released in accordance with police rules.

Haggett also testified that one partygoer was arrested – after being chased by police, knocked down, and handcuffed – solely because he made a couple of obscene gestures and swore at officers.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Haggett's responses on the stand were also sometimes "significantly different" from his testimony to OCC and police internal affair investigators, and when those interview transcripts were read, Haggett "appeared befuddled" and claimed he could not remember many details of the incident 21 months later. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Actress Susan Dey to host CUAV benefit

by Cynthia Laird

Actress Susan Dey, a longtime advocate for survivors of violence, will be in San Francisco to again host Community United Against Violence's annual fall reception on Tuesday, October 1. CUAV is the first organization in the country to address anti-gay hate violence and assists thousands of people through its services.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden will present awards, one of which will go to Laurie McBride, executive director of LIFE, California's lesbian/gay and AIDS lobby that has been in Sacramento since 1990. One of McBride's accomplishments has been to expand LIFE's role to include civil rights issues as part of its mission.

Bay Area Career Women (BACW) will also be honored by CUAV. The organization was founded in 1980, and has been central to creating a strong network of women in the Bay Area. BACW has funded services for lesbians through its "A Fund of Our Own" program, and has distributed \$150,000.

CUAV helps victims of hate-motivated violence, as well as those abused by their partners. Volunteers speak to thousands of young people every year to help stop violence before it happens. The agency promotes self-defense, using whistles and other means to make the community safer, and provides job training for youth.

Family Day next Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

The Alternative Family Project (AFP) will hold a "Family Day" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families on Saturday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Center at Geary and Franklin streets. AFP project coordinator Cheryl Deane said the benefit event will be "more than kids, food, and good times."

Besides DoMA on the national level, Deane said, events closer to home also threaten gay and lesbian families. "Governor Pete Wilson, in his effort to legislate lesbian and gay families out of existence, attacked the Department of Social Services in a series of hearings to declare lesbian and gay co-parents unfit to adopt the children they raise," she said.

Funds raised will go to provide services for low-income alternative families. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for the first child, and \$3 for the second child. Kids under two are free. Deane emphasized that no one will be turned away for lack of funds. ▼

For more information, call (415) 566-5683.

Volunteers sought for African-American AIDS care

by Shan Schwartz

Volunteers are sought to begin training this weekend to provide AIDS advocacy and emotional support to San Francisco's African-American AIDS community.

The Cadre, a volunteer emotional support team serving the southeastern quadrant of San Francisco, will conduct its new volunteer training this weekend, September 28 and 29.

Beverly Jackson, volunteer coordinator for The Cadre, said training would prepare volunteers for emotional support functions and sensitize them to the needs of the African-American community struck with AIDS.

"This group doesn't get the same outreach as other groups," Jackson said. "Previously, members of the [African-American] community saw HIV as a gay disease or affecting people that are intravenous drug users. But the fact is that virtually all African-Americans are at risk."

Although Cadre's clients are primarily heterosexual, Jackson said the African-American community is contracting HIV faster than any other racial group in San Francisco.

Presenters at this weekend's training will include Celi Adams, director for Home Care Companions; Eugene and Linda Menifee,

from the Institute for Community Health; and Duncan Tam, a social worker at Laguna Honda Hospital.

After training, volunteers will be placed with clients and hospitals to provide advocacy, emotional support, networking and referral services, Jackson said. Clients for The Cadre are typically in the areas of Potrero Hill, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Sunnydale, and Lakeview.

Volunteers will be asked for a minimum commitment of three months' service. The Cadre's emotional support team is also an opportunity for citizens to gain training and work experience for future employment.

"All people with an interest in working with this population are welcome," Jackson said. "Even if they have no experience, this is a good opportunity to get those skills."

Registrations for volunteer training will be accepted until training begins on Saturday, Jackson said. Cadre especially seeks people of color to volunteer, but people of any race and sexual orientation are welcome. ▼

To sign up for training, call Cadre at 822-7500 and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator, or stop by Cadre's office at 5815 Third Street, open 9-5 Monday through Friday.



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Thank You!

BAY AREA REPORTER

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A Vote Santé

This week is going to be better than last week.

Last week the president put his signature to DoMA, the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" written and promulgated by Bob Barr, Newt Gingrich, and Bob Dole – all of whom have left their first spouses and refused to pay support for their children, which makes them transparent trans-parents, and not at suitable for the task of defending marriage or the family or much at all, in fact.

This week, on the other hand, is *Leather Week and the Folsom Street Fair*.

Last week the U.S. Congress, in a last-minute maneuver, also added a provision to the new immigration bill that is gradually revealing itself to be almost unimaginably hateful. If allowed to pass, the additional provision would prevent legal immigrants with HIV from receiving assistance in fighting the disease – and as Congressman Barney Frank pointed out, leaves them vulnerable to deportation. There are no exclusions, so tax-paying immigrants to America who support themselves with menial hospital jobs are now doubly jeopardized by needle sticks: if they get infected, they're utterly out of luck. That is an incredibly harsh reality for our Congress to want to make into law. And yet, it's just about par for that bunch.

This week, on the other hand, is the *Women's Weekend at the Russian River*.

It's good to have this celebratory weekend, especially five weeks before the election, where so many of us can convene, converse, and concentrate on how wonderful it is to be alive before we go out there and do battle with so many people who need to be fought.

This weekend look around at the gay men and women who surround you and remember: this is the face of America. Not because we want it to be so, but because it

is. We are the general population – with all its strengths and weaknesses – and are therefore entitled to bitch like hell about our hateful Congress and the Three Deadbeat Dads and Hodcarrier of the Apocalypses.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to end in bitching – and it shouldn't. *This is the week thousands of gay and lesbian Californians are going to register to vote before the October 7 deadline*. Remember, bitching without intending to vote is like putting on a condom without intending to have sex: it's just chafing and stu-

pid. Speaking of condoms, this weekend is supposed to be celebratory, not dangerous. We hope everyone is well-stocked with de-

vices to keep their playtimes safer. For visitors to San Francisco, who haven't yet been subjected to our insistent cheerleading about so-called "female condoms," we just want to say the initial purchase price of \$10 for three may seem steep, but it's less than a bottle of um, "leather stripper," it's capable of adding at least as much enjoyment to the weekend, and it's going to be much, much better for you. In any case, we hope the people in charge of such things are making sure that bars and other gathering places are stocked with vast quantities of condoms of some sort for your enjoyment.

Having said that, there's nothing to add except "Let the good times begin."

This week.

Editorial

UPON HEARING THAT IBM WILL OFFER DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS TO IT'S GAY AND LESBIAN EMPLOYEES, MILITANT CHRISTIAN ACTIVISTS HAD HISSY FITS AND WERE SENT INTO A TIZZY PROVOKING THEM INTO A LEGISLATIVE ACTION...

THE OPEN PRAIRIE BY JOE HOOVER
SORRY PEAR, I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO ORGASM. I'LL MISS FOOTBALL!
IT'S A SHAME, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE SHAVING AS NATURE INTENDED!

(Sorry but you'll have to imagine this in neat rainbow colors your silly editor at the Bay Area Reporter refused to print this full color!)
BOYCOTT! BOYCOTT! BOYCOTT!

...WHICH HAS LEAD TO THE CREATION OF THE DEFENSE OF FORNICATION ACT GIVING ONLY HETEROSEXUALS THE LEGAL RIGHT (AND ALL ITS BENEFITS) TO LIVE IN SIN TOGETHER.

*H*oover
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The drug war's divide-and-conquer strategy

by Mitchell Halberstadt

When California Attorney General Dan Lungren's August 4 raid on the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC) was an attack on the barely surviving counterculture – a classic divide-and-conquer maneuver by the Puritanical jihad.

The raid exposed the ugly face of his political violence – with the CBC doubling as campaign headquarters for Prop. 215, the statewide medical marijuana initiative, and Lungren a Prop. 215 arch-foe.

At first, a ripple of support ran toward the club – within two weeks, however, momentum evaporated. City officials abandoned the effort to declare a medical marijuana health emergency, and the injunction closing the club was sustained.

A hit-piece in the August 14 SF Weekly was symptomatic. "Ultimate responsibility for the shuttering ... belongs with one person: [CBC founder] Dennis Peron," scolded author George Cothran. "Peron had turned his program into something that smacked of a dealer's enterprise."

Locally, a little lie spearheaded the "divide and conquer" charge.

Cothran touted the innuendo that "behind the scenes, needle-exchange advocates [were] trying to drop the curtain" on Supervisor Tom Ammiano's call for a health emergency dispensation for medical marijuana.

But no reporter has produced one on-the-record quote from any needle-exchange advocate opposed to medical marijuana. In fact, among harm reduction advocates, public support for the CBC, and for medical marijuana, remains virtually monolithic.

The lie made its mark nonetheless. The

CBC's political back-up evaporated.

Even Peron was contrite. "In my loneliness, I ran the club ... with my heart instead of my head," he said in an August 13 statement. "I apologize to the wonderful people who have supported the cause of freedom, if I have let you down."

Granted, as Ammiano puts it, Peron is not Mother Theresa: he's a capitalist. But beyond such concessions to reality, was Peron's heart really in the wrong place?

Suppose, for instance, some bags sold at the club slipped out a proverbial side door, destined for recreation. Suppose a doobie or three had been joyfully toked in the club's hippie-Victorian digs, as steros crooned, "If you're goin' to San Francisco, wear flowers in your hair..."

Does this justify Lungren's raid?

In focusing on allegations of non-medical sales at the CBC, Lungren seemed to concede that medical sales were not so vulnerable. But now he's busted the L.A. club, whose non-smoking, medical-only policies were scrupulous – and whose leader, Scott Imler, was feuding with Peron over such isues. Divide and conquer.)

Consider the pain, suffering, and sickness soothed or ameliorated by marijuana. Also consider the uniquely safe, supportive space the club provided. Consider the cash the CBC brought into the neighborhood, a local asset unlike anything this side of Amsterdam. Consider how this indoor, safe "venue helped 'clean up the streets.'

Even if allegations made against the CBC are true, they rest on bigger lies. It's time for the jihad's lies and assumptions to be challenged head-on.

How heinous is the specter of recre-

ational pot?

The president says, "I didn't inhale," running rightward to prove he's not a "counterculture McGovernik." Barry McCaffrey, his drug czar, calls medical marijuana "a cruel hoax."

Earlier this month, Joseph Califano (Democrat, HHS Secretary under Carter, now at Columbia University) released survey results confirming that people who experimented with drugs when young expect their children to do so, too – and, where pot is concerned, that they aren't overwhelmed by this "crisis." Califano, desperate for spin-control, reprimands such adults – insulting their intelligence.

As parents, boomers are buttressed by solid experiences and perspectives about priorities, effects, and real dangers – more illuminating than "I didn't inhale" – and by more worldly wisdom than "Just say no." They know what it is for a generation to dream of remaking the world, in images as quintessentially American as Walt Whitman or Woodstock. Today's kids could use such dreams.

In contrast, today's drug war has ceded the streets to gangsterism, heroin, and crack, as politicians intone, "Work hard and play by the rules."

The reality of pain and suffering, of life and death – and of politics – now demands an effective campaign for Prop. 215, and a realistic means of meeting medical needs. That's a necessary goal, but a limited one. Meanwhile, we must keep working toward a tolerable future, where a Joycey Elders, or a hippie, or a lesbian or gay couple is respected fully as part of the American "family." The alternative is the death of the American dream. ▼



LETTERS

The whole quilting circle

We appreciated the article about the quilt panel memorializing young people in the Bay Area who have died of AIDS ("Q Action unveils young people's addition to Names Quilt," September 12).

We wanted to make it clear that the project was the result of a collaboration between BAY Positives and Q Action. In fact, one of the most rewarding parts of the process of making the quilt panel was that our two groups – and the HIV-positive and HIV-negative young people who are part of them – worked together so closely in planning, designing, and constructing the quilt.

If any of your readers would like more information on the quilt or either of our organizations, here's how: Q Action, the young men of the STOP AIDS Project, is at (415) 621-7177 x. 255; BAY Positives is at (415) 487-1616. Thanks again.

Joe Wright & David Boyer
Q Action
San Francisco

[Thanks for the clarification. And the quilt looks terrific.]

Spanish lesson

Mucho le agradezco el haberme permitido publicar mi carta en su sección "Cartas al Editor" en relación a su anuncio "Estrictamente Castellano."

Ahora yo le contesto en español, para que usted, o que el tituló la carta, en forma de burla, "He thays he speaks Castilian," sepa que los latinoamericanos no solo hablamos el castellano, sino que también lo sabemos escribir. El español de la forma que los españoles lo pronuncian se conoce como castellano. Hay un sinúmero de regionalismos y coloquios en nuestra rica lengua, que hace que a lo mejor "coger" en Argentina no signifique lo mismo que en Madrid, Bogotá, o Caracas. Pero todos los que hablamos español nos entendemos. Ustedes los norteamericanos blancos e ignorantes tienen la idea que el español en Latinoamérica no es el correcto. Y eso es una falacia. Si usted es nacido en este país (su apellido es Salinas) debe de tener alguna relación con latinoamericanos o españoles. Así que pregúntele a algún miembro de su familia si estoy correcto ó no.

En cuanto al término "Coconut," este es el equivalente a "Oreo Cookie" que utilizan los afro-americanos para describir a los miembros de su raza que actúan como ustedes los blancos. Un coco es color marrón por fuera y blanco por dentro, así que cuando nosotros queremos describir a un latino que piensa y actúa como un blanco, especialmente en la comunidad homosexual de San Francisco, le llamamos "Coconut." Ah, y en Castilla la Vieja lo entienden. A lo mejor no conocen de ustedes, pero sí saben.

Le recomiendo que lea la columna de "Cartas al Editor" del periódico *New York Times*. En este el editor no "editoliariza" las cartas de los lectores ni las ridiculiza. Parece mentira que su periódico, orientado a una minoría oprimida, pueda dejar margen para ser racista.

Y como usted dijo en relación a la carta sobre el error en "Towering Inferno," "Now all can sleep."

P.S. If you need someone to translate this letter for you, probably you have some coconuts working for you, or maybe yourself?

Carlos Caviglioni
Berkeley, CA

Latino coverage

Many compliments on your August 29, 1996 edition and its three articles covering lesbian and gay Latinos in San Francisco. Your coverage highlights the exciting energy that is going on in the Latino community. The B.A.R.'s commitment to people and issues involving the communities of color does a great service to the entire community.

Supervisor Susan Leal
Member, Board of Supervisors

Ball legacy

Re "Ball rumors" (Mailstrom, Sept. 12): Dig those cheap panty hose out of your crack, Amanda! While it is true our fearless leader has gone to the great beyond for the ultimate beauty makeover, her legacy lives on. Her 30 pairs of pumps are extremely hard to fill. However, the rumor you just spread is more damaging to "good taste" than those sausage casings you call dresses. Our event planners, graphic artists, and fashion consultants are all busy working their Lee's Press-On Nails to the bone.

We will be gathering again in the Castro on our traditional weekend and will soon make a formal announcement. So, sharpen your eyebrow pencils, tease those old rat nests and get ready to strut your stuff.

And caution, girls... Amanda will not be the only one dragged through the mud.

The High Brow Society (a.k.a. The Muscle Sisters)
San Francisco

Flauntingly hetero

I would like to address Damon Jacobs, whose letter of September 5 complained about the sudden removal of himself and friends from The Cafe, due to the intimate smooching – in public – of the straight couple in his group. Mr. Jacobs was flustered over what he perceives as an ignorant, dangerous action taken by a bartender in this obviously pro-les/gay establishment. He wasn't even given a chance to tell the bartender that this hetero couple were his guests, and I quote: "She called upon a guard who promptly and rudely kicked the four of us out. No questions were asked, no discussion, nothing."

Let me ask you this, oh righteous Damon: Since when has a gay couple caught necking in a straight bar not been promptly kicked out – and worse yet, often bashed to a bloody pulp? By the way, have your opposite-sex friends ever invited you to a straight bar and encouraged you to make out with a gay buddy right there, in front of all the homophobes, and offered to protect you should a fight break out? My impression of your two hetero-comrades is that they are insensitive and thoughtless at best, and flauntingly arrogant and homo-condemning at worst. Who do they think they are, to take their breeder ways and push that into our faces in the few places in this city where we're supposed to feel comfortable? I think your "het" friends got off lightly, by a prompt dismissal with neither bruising nor threat of bruising, as a consequence of their actions.

You suggest, dear Damon, that The Cafe should warn all patrons of discrimination against certain hetero actions, before they enter the premises. That's fine with me; a sign could be posted that says: "To our heterosexual clients: This is a protective environment for lesbian and gay people. Please respect our space. Blatant displays of hetero love play will result in immediate expulsion of the offending parties."

I am in complete opposition to your condemnation of The Cafe's action (of removing the heterosexist couple). In fact, I applaud their unflinching stance, and only wish more queer places would be so forthright. How often I go to a gay bar to see bartenders do absolutely nothing about a hetero couple getting it on amidst a gay crowd that really is disgusted with het-sex arrogance, and desires to avoid it for a short while, by going to these pro-homosexual establishments (which, by the way, play mostly hetero love songs: egad!). If any action should be taken, it should be *against* those bartenders, waiters, clerks/shop owners, etc. who look the other way when "hets" flaunt their sexless behavior in lesbian or gay environments.

I encourage more people in our community to patronize The Cafe, and any other les/gay spots that actively stanch any and all heterosexist behavior. Posting a sign to this effect, as Damon Jacobs suggested in his brilliant flash of insight – will most likely increase customer volume. For, believe it or not, there are ever-increasing numbers of nonheterosexist heteros, who gladly support the pro-homo movement. For in the lesbian/gay cause, they rightly see improvement towards the treatment of females, children, and male gentleness. These are intelligent people whom we should welcome with open arms, but who should finally start wearing pro-gay buttons and T-shirts, with statements such as "Another hetero for gay rights." In that way, we may distinguish them from the bestial, Cro-Magnon heterosexist type, and give them our gratitude and trust.

We lesbians, gays, and other assorted queers, have hardly any place to go in this city, county, state, nation, or world, where we are not in immediate danger of being terrorized for our lives. Can we not even have a few places where no heterosexist activity takes place? You may not like to think in this way, but the truth is that we still live in a society which absolutely thrives on terrorizing the homosexual. It is like being surrounded by Charles Manson clones wherever I go, whether to a shopping mall, a busy street, a club, bar, or neighborhood, the theater, and so on ad infinitum. You never know – from one nanosecond to the next – which of these seemingly peaceful, sane citizens around you is going to suddenly lash out at you with the word "Faggot!" exploding from his or her mouth like a machine-gun volley, and start bashing. And nine times out of ten, s/he'll get away with it even before a court of law! And please, don't apply what limited "rights" we may have in San Francisco. They are not only light years ahead of 90 percent of the rest of this nation, but they still remain decrees for second-class citizens.

Ezekiel J. Krahlin
San Francisco

Royal salute

I was again sad to read of the passing of a long-time loving and caring friend for so many in our community. Dear Gary Michael Parizek (a.k.a. "Royal Baby") never said no to a friend.

Marvin-Michel LeGrier, II, Esq.
San Francisco

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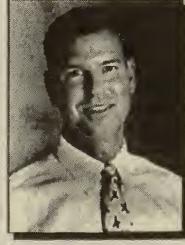
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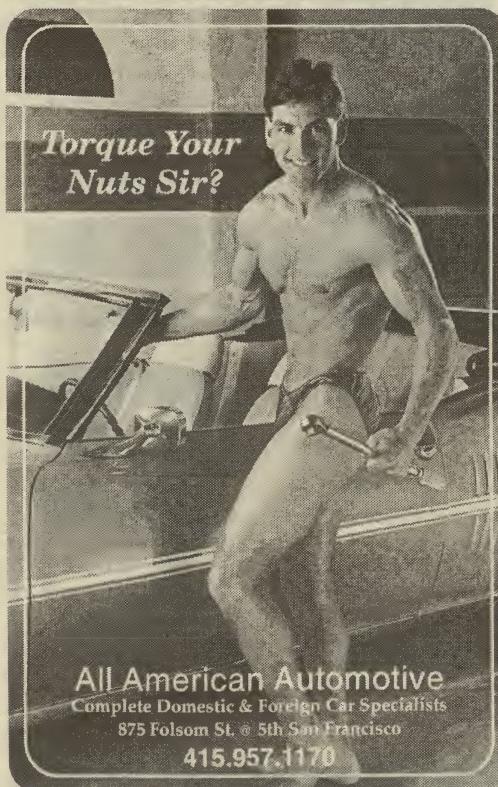

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Oh, marry? Don't ask.

I've been praying about this for quite a while, and after the passage of the "Defense of Marriage Act" in the Senate, I've been led to take action.

As of today, I'm no longer going to sign marriage licenses or act in any way as an agent of the State for mixed-gender couples – not until same-gender couples are respected on an equal footing in both Federal and State law.

I will continue to bless the Christian relationships of couples of mixed gender just as I will bless couples of the same gender, as is fitting for a priest – it is, after all, the couple who act as the ministers in Holy Matrimony; the ordained convey blessing on what already exists by the grace of God.

Those who are privileged to undertake the legal contract of marriage have other avenues available to them to do so – they may obtain the services of a judge, a J.P., or some other secular official to have their relationship recognized in law. But as a priest of Christ's Church I will not act as a legal representative of Government in perpetuating policies that are discriminatory, immoral and unjust, and as a citizen I must protest when my partner and I are denied the equal protection of the laws guaranteed to us in the Constitution.

I also view this as an opportunity to teach all couples about the covenantal nature of Christian marriage, which transcends the contractual aspects of a legal relationship.

Jan Nunley
Rector, St. Peter's and
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Providence, RI

Waffling from principles

Re: Clinton's principles ...?

(1) Gays in the military: Clinton retreated.
(2) Welfare reform: Clinton finally caved.
(3) Same gender marriage: Clinton decides DoMA is politically divisive and unnecessary and says so in letters published by the White House. Yet, he promises to sign it anyway, although he could permit it to become law without his signature, or veto it outright while supporting his "principled position" against gay marriage with facts, and while restating his empathetic concerns about discrimination against our gay and lesbian fellow-folk in jobs, housing, and other governmentally conferred benefits and rights.

One wonders if there is a bad piece of legislation anywhere that Clinton wouldn't sign to allay his insecurity over his re-electability, and to satiate his appetite for the power of a second term. We would be more comfortable voting for a president free from the duplicitous moralities of Richard Morris, and who stood up consistently for what's right, rather than waffling from principled positions to the politically safe. Isn't this what leadership is all about? "More than any other president" continues to ring hollow.

It's good Clinton isn't being seriously challenged. This saves us from having to vote for him again.

Rand Knox
San Rafael, CA

Party favors

The November elections will soon be upon us. Many are angry and frustrated with a system that appears unresponsive to our needs. Within the structure of the two party system we find few true friends among the Democrats and even fewer among the Republicans. Mr. Clinton has been a major disappointment on at least two important fronts. Last election all we heard was healthcare reform. We thought Mr. Clinton meant to establish comprehensive and universal healthcare coverage, but all they want to do now is end Medicaid. Some reform. Though Mr. Clinton received major voter support from the gay communities, he has done nothing to help or protect us. He even supports legislation that would create a two-tier marriage system, that continues the exploitation of gay people and maintains heterosexual privilege.

So what to do? Surely we don't want Dole, but there isn't a Democrat to vote for. Times like this make you wonder if you should vote at all. Maybe if we don't vote that will let them know how angry we are. Or will it? When we choose not to vote we send a message to the Democrats and the Republicans that we don't care. Another disaffected voter. They like that, so do the PACs, the corporations, and power-hungry fanatics like the "Christian" Coalition.

Remember, America is not a two party system. There are many parties running presidential candidates. Check them out. Vote for what you believe. Don't worry that the person you vote for may not win the election, because when you vote for a minor party that vote sends a message, a clear and direct protest, to the Democrats and the Republicans. That message tells them that you DO care, that you WILL express your opinions, and that you ARE involved. Your vote will be a WIN for the electorate, and help bring the power back to the people.

Halley Low
Staten Island, NY

Hatchedome

Well first it was Jerry Bonham and now it's Phil B. Congratulations, Pleasuredome, on having the uncanny ability to rid yourself of the most talented DJs in these United States. I am still reeling from your most recent hatchet job. A lot of us are shocked and dismayed, collectively asking you the burning question: "What the hell were you thinking?"

I'll be the first to admit that no DJ will be able to satisfy everyone on the dancefloor, but I took great pride in the fact that Pleasuredome always brought you music that was straight on the cutting edge, fresh, and progressive, unlike anything I've ever heard in any other club in this country.

Trust me, I've heard it all. Every circuit and non-circuit party on this planet – I've been there. Heard every DJ, big and small, from coast to coast. I always came home with a smile on my face because I knew that the best dance music I ever heard was always at Pleasuredome and that I was consistently guaranteed the freshest and most ingenious music every Sunday night that I went out.

All of my friends from New York, Miami, LA and London would be in awe of the great music they heard at Pleasuredome when Jerry or Phil played. We all agreed that we never heard music like this anywhere else. It was rich, symphonic, dynamic, textured and unaffected by that juggernaut called commercialism that is so gratuitously pandered to by too many DJs and club owners. I was always grateful that Pleasuredome had the foresight and courage to rise above the muck and mire of mediocrity that plagues most clubs and "party" events. I was recently in LA and felt insulted that the DJs at all those parties, whether by lack of skill or design, pandered to the most pedestrian of tastes, playing the most unimaginative kind of music at every single party. It was relentlessly boring and painfully sophomore at best. I couldn't wait to get home to San Francisco.

Pleasuredome on Sunday nights were legendary. You were treated to some "kick ass," hot-off-the-press music no one else had and didn't have for months, and that was because Jerry and Phil worked their butts off, dealing with record companies and distributors to bring us the newest and hottest songs available on the market today.

Now, Pleasuredome, it seems you're destined to join the rest of the uncreative and uninventive fold, commercializing your sound and compromising any shred of originality and musical integrity you once possessed. Soon you'll probably be having your first Macarena dance contest. Forget about being innovative and hip. Just play what everyone else is playing. You were once an institution, the vanguard of progressive dance music in the gay club scene in San Francisco, but now you're nothing but a ragged sheep in the herd of pop music banality.

Allow me to illuminate something that has apparently escaped you. The mark of a great DJ is not his ability to play top ten hit after hit. Any moron with a transistor radio can do that. Jerry and Phil are great DJs who take their audience on a musical journey by introducing them to music they've never been exposed to before and skillfully putting it all together with familiar tunes and hard-edged sounds, mixed masterfully to give the crowd an epic dance experience. All of this and with their integrity intact too. Imagine that!

I hope you succeed in what you wish to accomplish. I hope now that the music is different, your Sunday patronage will skyrocket, filling your coffers with the abundance you must have felt you were missing out on. It would be a damn shame that you let go of the best two DJs you ever had and found out that the masses still preferred to remain at home for a quiet Sunday evening, while only the dedicated ventured out. You seem to think that a change in DJs will spark a new interest in Sunday's attendance, but I highly suspect your gamble won't pay off the expected dividends. Congratulate yourself on pioneering the way backwards to a purgatory of bland and vapid music.

Just be careful you don't step on the legacy you left behind.

Patrick Makuakane
San Francisco

Carolina dreamin'

When northern California was hit by the big earthquake in 1989, Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina was quick to label the event proof of God's judgment against homosexual activity.

Recently Sen. Helms's state was devastated by hurricanes and tornadoes. Following Jesse's logic, these "acts of God" are clear evidence that the people of North Carolina are into some sex stuff that we haven't even thought of. My neighbor Sam the Sex Fiend is seriously considering moving there.

John Gildersleeve
San Francisco

The B.A.R. welcomes letters to the editor, but reserves the right to editorializar a las correspondencias de nuestros lectores o las ridicular when arguably appropriate.

Wedding bell blues

by Wayne Friday

We all knew it was coming. President Bill Clinton, true to his word (this time, anyway), signed the Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA) over the weekend. This bill denies federal recognition and benefits to same-sex couples who choose to tie the knot, though it doesn't actually ban such unions.

Clinton, rather sneakily and no doubt to create as little fuss (read: press coverage) as possible, signed the bill just before 1 a.m. Saturday, and in doing so, set off a wave of protest among many gays who had previously supported him. Why the big surprise? He said he was going to do it, and he did.

Hell, I think Mr. Bill screwed up, too, although I do think he handled the situation the best way he could — from a political standpoint at least. However, his statement that DoMA was a "needless and mean-spirited bill" and his protestations that this shouldn't lead to a round of gay bashing came off as lame, almost pathetic.

A White House spokesperson tried to explain away the Prez's actions



Bashing Bill: ACT UP/LA protests outside the president's \$25,000-a-couple dinner hosted by gay icon Barbra Streisand.

absolutely no chance of winning will only help Bob Dole and his cronies. With Bill Clinton we know what we have — good and bad — but a Dole administration would, without question, spell disaster for our community.

Politics and people

One well-known local Democratic Party activist called this week, suggesting that the *Bay Area Reporter* refuse to endorse any supervisor incumbent who, as the *Chronicle* so aptly editorialized, "rolled over like so many lap dogs" and rubber-stamped Mayor Willie Brown's Municipal Railway plan. "We need to kick the whole damn bunch out," opined my caller. "Willie has them all terrified of him."

Well, while anyone can see that the supes are running scared of Brown, some of these incumbents (namely Barbara Kaufman, Sue Bierman, and Leslie Katz) deserve another term for the good they've done on the Board — and to see if one day they will find the nerve to stand up to him.

City Hall sources are already predicting that Supervisors Kaufman and Bierman will easily win again, but it's a tossup for the remaining four spots, with Katz, Leeland Yee, Caroleen Marks, Jose Medina, Michael Yaki, and Margo St. James all a real possibility. Plus, Andrew Clark, an assistant district attorney and a member of the politically powerful Brown family, is also someone to watch in this race.

"The Hallinans" (Vivian, Lisa, Audrey and Viva) are giving a fundraiser/reception at their home this Saturday, Sept. 28, 2-5 p.m. for Municipal Court judge candidate Kay Tsenin (\$35 and up donation requested; 437-4700 for info).

State Democrats are quietly discussing the possibility of winning back control of the Assembly (a gain of five would do it), and state Republicans are reportedly very worried. One top GOP strategist told me that "if Clinton keeps that big double-digit lead into November, we're in serious trouble."

If I had a few extra bucks, I might put it on challenger Michaela Alioto (D) upsetting Rep. Frank Riggs in the First Congressional District. And don't be too shocked if East Bay Demo challenger Ellen Tauscher knocks off GOP incumbent Bill

Baker in the 10th District.

And don't forget tomorrow night's HRC California Project benefit at 2900 Vallejo for Assemblywoman Carole Migden. All proceeds go to Migden's campaign to regain a pro-gay state Legislature (5:30-7:30 p.m.; \$100 donation).

An early informal Field Poll last week showed the yes votes on Prop. 215, the Medical Marijuana initiative, leading by close to a 2-1 margin. Some feared the initiative might be in trouble after the CBC raid publicity.

City officials in Palm Springs, where former Vice Spiro Agnew lived for years after leaving office in disgrace, say he gave tens of thousands to various charities in that city. (Nice, but where did he get it?)

The new presidential debate dates — and I hope these are final — are Oct. 6 (Clinton vs. Dole in Hartford, Conn.); Oct. 9 (Al Gore vs. Jack Kemp in St. Petersburg, Fla.); and Oct. 16 (Clinton vs. Dole in San Diego).

Barbra Streisand, David Geffen, Steven Spielberg and other Tinseltown luminaries in the La Bamba party for Friends of Bill West raised a cool \$4 million for our Prez, which proves that people who need people are the luckiest people in the world after all, I guess. Even Kevin Costner, a lifelong Republican, slapped down a big check for Clinton. Meanwhile, ACT UP protested down the block.

But ACT UP isn't alone in Hollywood in feeling that way about Clinton. It seems that Elizabeth Taylor snubbed him — not once but twice — after she made her scathing speech at the Canada AIDS Conference, during which she harshly criticized the president for his "lack of compassion." A couple of days after the speech, Clinton called Ms. Taylor at home and La Liz told her staff, "Tell him I'm taking a nap." Clinton said he would try again in an hour, but when he did, Ms. Taylor was too busy to talk with him. Having the dog's nails clipped, perhaps? She says the president will have to do something drastic to fight AIDS, not just talk about it.

My Quote of the Week comes from TVC leader Lou Sheldon: "Homosexuality is trying to declare itself a minority, like blacks. ... We learned to enjoy blacks, Hispanics, Asians and the handicapped, but the way you experience sex is emotional, not like the color of your skin." Maybe if Sheldon ever learned to "enjoy" sex, he might learn to like us, too. ▼

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Wanking on America

by Beth Elliott

Question: When are child sexual abuse not sexual abuse, NAFTA not NAFTA, and supply-side economics not supply-side economics? Answer: When they're multiculturalism.

The DA's office came under fire recently for saying it would not prosecute those involved in an Iraqi immigrant family's arranged betrothal of its 13-year-old daughter to a 30-year-old man, because the family said they would claim the young woman was of age (perjury to the court or the INS?) and this marriage would be appropriate to their culture. Does this mean forced sex at that age only harms our more refined American young ladies?

Meanwhile, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, a Hmong immigrant was convicted of molesting stepdaughters aged 10 and 11, despite his lawyer's claims that sex with young girls was culturally appropriate back home. Nonetheless, Judge Ramona Gonzalez sentenced him not to 80 years in jail but to — English lessons!

Um, wasn't the warning about NAFTA and GATT that they would force the U.S. to lower its ecological and labor standards to those of any trade partners? Do we see a parallel here? Even were it true that supply-side immigration pays for itself (instead of costing taxpayers \$50 billion per year), aren't we hearing the giant sucking sound of feminism heading south?

High hopes

Question: When is it progressive to abuse the power of office? Answer: When you abuse it to promote a progressive cause.

When Da Mayor named Rev-

Question: When is it progressive to abuse the power of office?

Answer: When you abuse it to promote a progressive cause.

erend Amos Brown to the SF Board of Supervisors, some people in our community complained mightily. They remembered how Reverend Brown stood up at first for Reverend Eugene Lumpkin when Lumpkin faced being removed from the City's Human Rights Commission for wanting to bring a Biblical (i.e., anti-gay) perspective to his civil service. I believed Reverend Brown should be given a chance, and nearly wrote a column to that effect.

I thought that Reverend

Brown, a respected leader in the local black church, would both work against racism and call on people to work hard to build themselves up. When I read of a new church-sponsored discount buying program in Kansas City expected to demonstrate African-American buying power and generate \$100 million for community development in the next 18 months, I imagined Reverend Brown calling them at (800) 893-5555 to discuss starting something similar here. My hopes for Reverend Brown's tenure were high.

One recent morning, over breakfast, I read an opinion piece by Reverend

Brown in the *Chronicle's* Open Forum. It was scary. The piece was entitled, "Why is B of A Silent on Prop. 209?" Reverend Brown noted Bank of America's "Banking on America" campaign, with its ethnically diverse billboard and transit card models. Reverend Brown said we should "credit B of A also for having tellers and loan officers who look like the bank's customers" and their "color-friendly marketing campaign and in-house affirmative action program." He went on to say that "the public sector should emulate the affirmative action hiring practices of big companies."

(Before continuing, I'd like to pause to point something out, if I may. Here's a leader of the local black church stating in the morning paper that there are large corporations that believe in diversity in their work force, enough to be worthy of emulation. Less than two weeks before this, Secretary of Labor Robert

Reich claimed credit for the same phenomenon for the Clinton administration. But when I say that, in the context of urging a campaign to stop wanking and, like, do some focus groups or something, all hell breaks loose. Go fig.)

However, Reverend Brown had a problem with B of A: it hasn't publicly endorsed a "no" vote on Prop. 209. So, B of A gets a headline on the OpEd page suggesting it's done something wrong — and an implied muscle flex by a government official with

a say in where the City and County holds bank accounts. I think there's something just a tad unseemly about this.

Note again that Reverend Brown approves of how B of A conducts its business and hiring; this is not a case of demanding a company stop doing business with, say, an apartheid regime. It's more like,

"Yes, you're above your hiring and production quotas, but we didn't see you at The Party's big rally to smash imperialism. And you've always seemed so nicely re-educated, comrade."

Real ugly

Those who judge right action by the show people make of favoring the *cause du jour* will be suckers for people making such a show for personal advantage. When that turns to how vehemently one denounces real or perceived "enemies of the people," things can really get ugly. Or didn't you notice the overwhelming vote in Congress for the Defense of Marriage Act?

Question: When are those Jehovah's Witnesses at your door not Jehovah's Witnesses? Answer: When they're a Marxist friend asking you out for coffee because "we need to talk" — and the talk turns out to be about your politics.

As I've said before, cases can be made that the remedy of affirmative action is still necessary, and against Prop. 209. Not that this registered with this friend, who condescendingly called me a reactionary because I didn't believe that property is theft or that invention and innovation have nothing to do with the production of wealth — and that since I'm not loudly and angrily opposing Prop. 209 because the "right wing" is for it, I must be playing into the hands of the right wing.

I don't think she was prepared for my economic and ecological arguments for scaling back immigration to a replacement level to keep livable a state running out of water and paving over its fine farmland; she must have assumed I'd say something bigoted instead. So we lapsed into that dead silence that occurs when fundamentalists are trying to convert you and your responses don't play into their script. We barely agreed to disagree; when I said I didn't think her solutions would improve things, she snorted derisively and said, "I'm nowhere near the point of thinking about solutions." And that's the problem, isn't it? ▼

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Visible Proof members (l to r) Judy Noddin, Connie Amaranathithada, Hazel Betsey, Irma Torres and Pam Isaacs work on a scene in preparation for their Friday (Sept. 27) show at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (1519 Mission Street, 8:30 p.m., \$5). The show will consist of monologues, stories and scenes created by five lesbian, bisexual and transgender women living with HIV.

Many events planned for Women's Weekend

by Cynthia Laird

The Russian River community is once again rolling out a forest carpet for revellers from near and far who are expected to converge in the area for the annual Women's Weekend celebration this weekend, September 27-29, and many venues will be offering events.

Whether you want to see and be seen, visit with old friends, or make new ones, all the while enjoying a sunny climate and spectacular views, then come to Sonoma County's famous gay area for what organizers say will be an awesome gathering.

When you arrive in beautiful downtown Guerneville, stop at the Cactus Club for their "Welcome the Women" party Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, the Russian River Resort, also known as the Triple R, will host its notorious "Wet T-Shirt Contest" at poolside, with a percentage of the profits benefiting women's cancer research.

Numerous other events have been planned, including country-western dancing at Molly Brown's Country Club. Fife's Resort will be showing off their newly remodeled facilities, including a gym, full bar, and restaurant.

And for sportsfans, Mr. McT's Sports Bar will have a specially edited tape of the Atlanta Olympic Games, featuring the "Women of '96" playing on their many video screens.

Northwood Golf Course will host the Lavender Hill Invitational Gold Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m.

Oakland author Meredith Maran will be signing copies of her latest book, *What It's Like to Live Now* at the River Reader Bookstore on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Critics have hailed the book by Maran — an activist, lesbian, and mother of two teenage sons — calling it "fresh, funny, and honest."

A craft fair will dominate the middle of town Saturday and Sunday.

This year's events also include "The Music and Comedy Festival" to fight domestic violence.

Mainstage performances run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Riverlane Resort in Guerneville.

Scheduled performers include Gwen Avery, Monica Grant, Maureen Brownsey, Rebecca Riots, Soul Divine, Laura Chandler, Mindy Dawn Friedman, Moving Violations, Midnight Picnic, Judith Kate Friedman, Mocha Blue, Karen Soohoo, and many others.

Live entertainment will also take place all over town, at Brew Moon, Main Street Station, and Midway Deli, to name a few.

Additionally, there will be creative workshops, on-site massage, and open-mic music, poetry, and comedy.

Festival proceeds will support a number of women-oriented groups, including the Purple Berets, the Sonoma County YMCA Domestic Violence Program, the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium, and the San Francisco Network for Batteried Lesbians and Bisexual Women. ▼

For more information about lodging and camping in Guerneville, and Women's Weekend events, call the Russian River Chamber of Commerce at (707) 869-9000.

For information about the golf tournament call (707) 544-8150. Send e-mail to: chamber@russianriver.com

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by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

According to the September 28 TV Guide, the title character on Ellen Degeneres's hit ABC sitcom *Ellen* will make television history this season by announcing she's a lesbian. This would be first time in a network sitcom that a lead character would be openly lesbian or gay. Unfortunately, a barrage of negative comments and a threat by radical religious groups to boycott the show have erupted at the Web site for Touchstone and Buena Vista Television. The producers of the show, including Ellen herself, reported-

ly plan for the coming out to be a gradual process over the first nine episodes of the season. Alan Klein, GLAAD's National Communications Director, noted that this positive and courageous coming out process "reflects Hollywood's commitment to diversity. This would be a major cultural milestone."

Let Touchstone know that this groundbreaking move has your full support. Additionally, assure Touchstone that the lesbian and gay community, their friends, and families have a long history of loyalty to advertisers who support the lesbian and gay community. Don't let small-minded bigots and homophobes decide what you can see on TV. Your prompt response is critical!

Contact: Dean Valentine, President of Network TV and Television Animation, Walt Disney and Touchstone Television, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91521-0001, phone: (818) 560-5000 or go to Touchstone TV's comment page on the World Wide Web at [Finally, in a subplot, when one of Pops' female friends wants to lose weight for her high school reunion, he suggests his own diet, saying, "When I get done with you, you'll have every guy giving you their number— and some freaky girls, too!" From his inflection, it is clear that he does not mean "freak" in the Rick James sense.](http://www.tvtplex.com>Note.</p>
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Write the WB and tell them that this kind of hateful mocking of lesbians, bisexuals, and people with AIDS is never funny, and the Wayans Brothers' cheap jokes not only fall flat, they contribute to the marginalization of gays, bisexuals and people with AIDS.

Contact: Jamie Kellner, president, The WB, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91522, fax: (818) 972-0864.

GLAAD Alert update: T.J. Maxx and ad agency make apologies

Following protests from GLAAD over a commercial for T.J. Maxx that ran nationally last week – in which an effeminate fashion designer in a caftan becomes hysterically inflamed over the company's low prices – both T.J. Maxx and the creators of the ad, Ingalls, Quinn and Johnson, have made public apologies for perpetuating a worn-out and denigrating stereotype about gay men. As Bob Hoffman, president and creative director of the ad agency Gearon Hoffman said in a September 16 Adweek story, "I was surprised at the stereotype of the pouty, effeminate, gay fashion designer. It was about as stereotypical as it gets."

In a September 12 letter to GLAAD, T.J. Maxx President and CEO Ben Cammarata stated that he "sincerely regrets any misrepresentation or offense that [the ad] may have caused. Never was there an intent to stereotype or dishonor any group or individual. The commercial is no longer airing, and we will not air it in the future. T.J. Maxx recognizes the importance of achieving sensitivity through our advertising."

A day later, Bink Garrison, chairman of the board and CEO of Ingalls, Quinn and Johnson, told GLAAD that he "sincerely regrets any offense that this particular ad may have caused. We certainly never intended to demean anyone."

Contact: Bernard Cammarata, CEO, TJX Companies, Inc., 770 Cochituate Road, Farmingham, MA 01701, fax: (508) 390-2199; Bink Garrison, CEO and Chairman of the Board, Ingalls, Quinn and Johnson, One Design Center Place, Boston, MA 02210, fax: (617) 295-7514. ▼

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Let Ellen out of the closet!

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

According to the September 28 TV Guide, the title character on Ellen Degeneres's hit ABC sitcom *Ellen* will make television history this season by announcing she's a lesbian. This would be first time in a network sitcom that a lead character would be openly lesbian or gay. Unfortunately, a barrage of negative comments and a threat by radical religious groups to boycott the show have erupted at the Web site for Touchstone and Buena Vista Television. The producers of the show, including Ellen herself, reported-

ly plan for the coming out to be a gradual process over the first nine episodes of the season. Alan Klein, GLAAD's National Communications Director, noted that this positive and courageous coming out process "reflects Hollywood's commitment to diversity. This would be a major cultural milestone."

Let Touchstone know that this groundbreaking move has your full support. Additionally, assure Touchstone that the lesbian and gay community, their friends, and families have a long history of loyalty to advertisers who support the lesbian and gay community. Don't let small-minded bigots and homophobes decide what you can see on TV. Your prompt response is critical!

Contact: Dean Valentine, President of Network TV and Television Animation, Walt Disney and Touchstone Television, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91521-0001, phone: (818) 560-5000 or go to Touchstone TV's comment page on the World Wide Web at [#### GLAAD about Mad About You](http://www.tvtplex.com>Note.</p>
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The season premiere of NBC's *Mad About You* had a lesbian-positive plot line and further developed the character of Paul's lesbian sister Debbie. As Jamie and Paul search for a gynecologist, Debbie suggests her girlfriend, Joan. Jamie goes to see Joan, but tells her she is still looking around for other options. In the interim, Debbie brings Joan to meet her parents for the first time. Jamie figures that since Joan is Debbie's lesbian lover, the mother will dislike her, and while Jamie feels bad about it, she looks forward to finally getting off the "bottom of the family totem pole."

But Joan is so intelligent, funny, and warm that the parents both love her, and take it personally that Jamie and Paul haven't jumped at the chance to name Joan Jamie's gynecologist.

"Joan is your sister-in-law, practically," the mother says. The father adds that since she's a lesbian, she has added expertise. They accuse Jamie and Paul of homophobia, which is clearly not the issue, and Joan comes to their defense. In typical sitcom fashion it all gets diffused and, in the end, Jamie chooses Joan.

Please thank NBC for a smart, funny plot line which is an excellent example of how affirming, realistic lesbian and gay characters and issues can be woven into a show without being sensationalized or canonized.

Contact: Warren Littlefield, President, NBC, 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91523-0000, fax: (818) 840-3247, e-mail: nbc@aol.com.

Dubba-dubba-doubly offensive show on WB

The September 11 episode of the WB show *The Wayans Brothers* contained several repugnant remarks and gestures. The plot revolves around the two brothers, Marlon and Sean, trying to hit on the same woman. At one point when the woman asks where Sean is, Marlon says he is "getting ointment for his lesions," as if to imply that Sean has AIDS and is thus both undesirable and someone to

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SPORTS NEWS

All wet

by Jim Provenzano

You're submerged, floating, yet with enough exhale to prevent sinking. Your arms slice neatly through water again and again with an air of resolve, a methodical liquidity. While occasionally breaking the steady pattern, you can drown the day's thoughts and problems while perusing the bodies of others that pass on either side like dolphins. Through goggles, everything is framed with a camera-like clarity.

You gasp between laps. You remember to work on your flip turns. You anticipate spotting the curves of another swimmer who rises from the water. You breathe in the scent of chlorine.

No other athletic endeavor, for me, is closer to pure pleasure than swimming. Perhaps it's the fact that time and gravity's ravages prevent full participation in other sports. The buoyancy factor in swimming relieves so much pain associated with other activities.

Like the Burt Lancaster character in *The Swimmer*, I hopped pools for a long time. In a swimming course at City College, I enjoyed the cleanliness of Balboa Pool while being annoyed by the high school kids' pranks in the wading lane. At the Mission Pool, I noted the clear class lines of the Lap Swim folks consisting of mostly white queers affluent (or slackeroos) enough to take an afternoon off swimming. At San Francisco State, I regularly have to dodge the flapping limbs of those students whose aquatic instruction lacks the basics. At all pools, of course, I take into account the homo ratio and consequent cruise factors.

Swimming is the most exhibitionistic of sports. You're stripped down to almost nothing, body contours displayed. You have to get over the fact that no matter what your size, shape or color, people are going to be looking at you. But like the abrasive chemicals in the water, you leave with a feeling of ritual, having overcome body self-doubts, having transcended the weight of the earth, if only for a short time, and if only back and forth in a cement pit.

For spectators, diving is the pinnacle of swimming, the literally highest art. Divers poise themselves suicidally on cliffs or

boards, torquing and twisting like pens or missiles only to submerge with a minimum of splash. It is no strange coincidence that the most famous gay male athlete is a diver, Greg Louganis.

But Greg isn't the only one who should be peed at the upcoming schedule of events at Gay Games 98 in Amsterdam, which preposterously has eliminated all diving events. Instead, the Committee, composed, I should add, of some people who aren't even weekend athletes, has replaced the likes of diving with real sedentary crowd-pleasers like Chess and Bridge. Oh, I think they also added an Amsterdam appropriate event, the Hash Bar Triathalon.

Seriously, though, diving must be reinstated as a Gay Games sport. The problem with the lack of protests, according to one source, is that queer divers are often individuals with little contact to Gay Games officials. As fans of all divers, we should help. This discrepancy should be remedied before '98, but it will only happen with the complaining voices of hundreds of huffy homos. To find out where to write, call, etc., you can visit Amsterdam Gay Games 1998 web site at <http://www.dds.nl/~gaygames/>.

In the meantime, see you in the pool.

It's not often that I recommend that readers travel east, but even I am tempted by this event; the Eighth Annual International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics World Championship. Nothing thrills more than a wet jock in Speedos.

IGLA is the governing body for the sports of swimming, diving and water polo. They help insure the highest standards for aquatic competitions. Included in the sponsoring groups are the District of Columbia Aquatics Club and the Washington Wetskins Water Polo, the world's first gay and lesbian water polo team.

Ah, water polo, with all those thick thighs treading water. I seem to recall some especially enticing underwater coverage of the sport in the 1984 Olympics. That was sorely missed in this year's coverage.

ILGA '96 is taking place in DC from October 11-14, in coordination with other events such as a display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, yet another Human Rights Campaign din-



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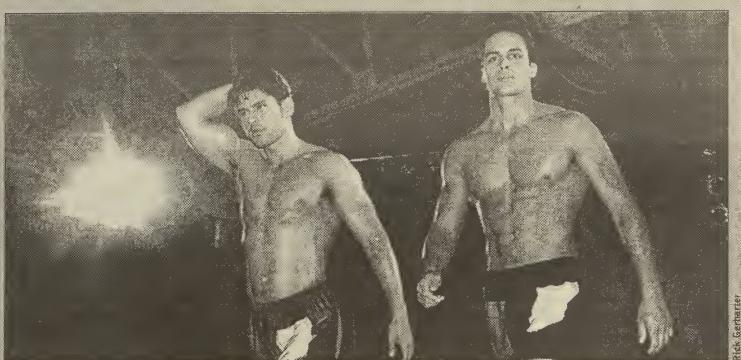
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Undressed for success



Rich Gerhardt

Hunks modeling silk boxers by Gene Meyer were a definite highlight of Macy's Sept. 19 Passport '96 extravaganza at Fort Mason. The annual AIDS fundraiser, which drew such luminaries as Elizabeth Taylor, Magic Johnson and RuPaul, was a veritable flesh and fashion feast.

Bay Area gay epileptic faces trial in medical marijuana case

Says pot helps him control seizures

by Cynthia Laird

North Bay resident Alan Martinez, 42, pleaded not guilty due to medical necessity to felony marijuana cultivation charges Tuesday, September 17 in Santa Rosa Superior Court, saying he needs the pot to help control his epileptic seizures.

The openly gay Martinez was bound over to trial, which is expected to start October 29. He remains out on bail, following his arrest in August.

Jason Miller, Martinez's lover of eight years as well as his registered caregiver, was also arrested in August and faces similar charges. The two are being tried as co-defendants.

Martinez and Miller were released from jail after each posted \$10,000 bail, according to Lynnette Shaw, executive director of

the Marin-Sonoma Alliance for Medical Marijuana.

"I'm innocent, the law is wrong and must be changed," Martinez said in a statement.

Shaw said Martinez and Miller were both arrested shortly after the raid of the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC) by state narcotics authorities.

She said police had seized "a handful" of marijuana plants from Martinez's property in June, but did not arrest the men until August. Shaw said Martinez's lawyer, William Panzer, advised against being more specific.

"They were arrested in August after Dennis' place was raided," Shaw said, referring to CBC founder Dennis Peron.

She added that Martinez, an epileptic, has suffered up to 15 seizures a day since he was 12, and uses marijuana with the support of his physician.

"His doctor is willing to go to court if necessary," Shaw told the B.A.R. "Because of medical marijuana, Alan works full time as a nurse's aide."

Martinez works in the Santa Rosa area.

Shaw added that Martinez and Miller have been registered with the medical marijuana alliance for three years as medical cannabis user and caregiver, respectively.

"Alan is well enough to work full time, so why should his medicine be taken away from him?" Shaw asked.

Stated Panzer, "This is a matter of life and death for Alan Martinez. We consider this a medical necessity and a medical right."

Shaw noted that if state Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative, is approved by voters in November, it would establish an exemption for cases such as this one. ▼

Two SF groups now fill medical pot void

by Cynthia Laird

In yet another effort to provide medical marijuana to people suffering from life-threatening illnesses, a new group, Flower Therapy, has begun selling the drug in San Francisco. Staff members said although they're starting off slowly, they hope more people can be served soon.

Flower Therapy started around September 10, said intake worker Todd Swindell. Most of the six-person paid staff formerly belonged to the Cannabis Buyers Club that was shut down by state narcotic agents following an August 4 raid at the Market Street office.

People who have a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, or epilepsy can come to Flower Therapy's office with an original letter of diagnosis and valid identification (state of California driver license, identification card, or a passport). From there, prospective members will be asked to complete an application, Swindell said.

Those with diagnoses outside of the five conditions are also eligible to become members of

Flower Therapy. People need to have a physician's statement that marijuana is medically indicated for the condition and that the doctor will monitor the patient's use of medical marijuana.

Flower Therapy is one of two recent programs that began selling pot for medicinal purposes after the closure of the CBC. In late August, Healing Alternatives began selling medical marijuana and distributes it at local churches. Both organizations rely on a stringent verification process before any pot is sold.

Swindell said the whole process at Flower Therapy generally takes from two to three days. One person was able to walk out of the group's office with medical marijuana the same day he brought in his documents.

"That's not the norm," Swindell told the B.A.R. "It depends how up-to-date a prospective member's paperwork is."

The pot is distributed at Flower Therapy's office in the Mission, although no marijuana consumption is allowed, Swindell said.

"There's no consumption of tobacco or narcotics on site," said

Swindell. "It's very much like a pharmacy. It's not a hang-out club."

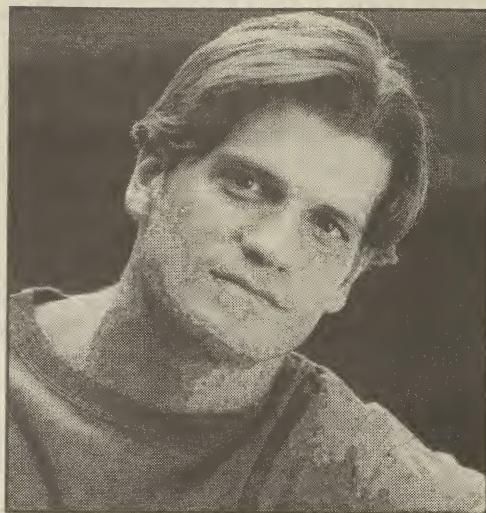
Basic Mexican marijuana sells for \$5 for one-eighth of an ounce, while California green bud goes for \$55 for one-eighth of an ounce.

"Prices will be going down once we get up and running," Swindell said.

There's no provision right now for the pot to be discounted or given away to people on limited incomes.

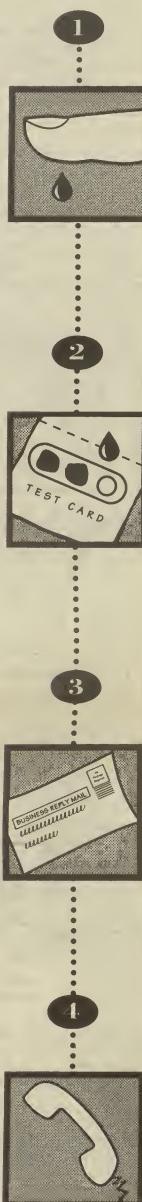
As of September 23, Flower Therapy had between 10-13 official members who are able to purchase marijuana for medical use. Swindell said another 25-30 people are awaiting completion of the verification process, which includes confirmation that they are under a physician's care, and that their doctors are licensed to practice medicine in California. ▼

Flower Therapy is located at 3180 17th Street (corner of 17th and South Van Ness) and is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The phone number is (415) 255-6305.



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Newt and the Accidental Gingrich: Candace comes to A Different Light

by Terry Beswick

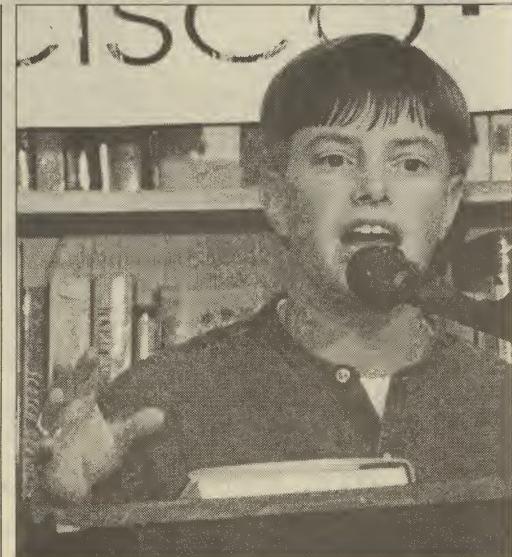
By the time 30-year-old Candace Gingrich embarked on a tour of gay America this month to promote her biography, *The Accidental Activist* [Scribner; 254 pages; \$23], she'd already had more than her Warholian 15 minutes of fame. Still, A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street overflowed with curious admirers, detractors and reporters eager for her coming out story on Thursday, September 19.

Among the fans and TV cameras, gadfly activist Michael Petrelis was there to challenge her family values, accusing Gingrich of "cashing in on the family's name."

As long as big brother Newt stands two heartbeats away from the presidency, queer half-sister Candace will continue to be a magnet and a curiosity among the media and the public — a fact she admits working to its full advantage. While her book, written with the help of former *Advocate* reporter Chris Bull, offers little in the way of red meat, it is giving her the biggest burst of media attention yet.

She's done Larry King and Joan Lunden. She's been profiled everywhere from the tabloids to the *New York Times*. She's even had a spot on the popular sitcom, *Friends*. Indeed, Candace Gingrich's pixieish face has become familiar to much of America. She's the baby dyke sister of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, the champion of the so-called "Republican Revolution."

Candace was never very close with Newt, 23 years her senior. Other than the name, about the only thing the two seem to have in common is their mother. Part of her purpose in writing the book, Gingrich says, was "to find out what Newt truly believes": is he really a homophobic demagogue as he appears, or is he merely pandering to the religious right for political gain? Thus far, she says she has failed to answer this question, and it may remain a mystery. She rarely speaks to her brother — once every year or two, when she corners him in an elevator or at a



Candace Gingrich: "I'm not doing this for admiration"

family party. He did not agree to be interviewed for the book.

Gingrich came out as a lesbian to her family and friends ten years ago, at the age of 20. At the time, Newt responded with indifference through a third party — their mother. In fact, no one in the family seemed to care much, even when big brother became Speaker in 1994, and the name "Gingrich" became a household word.

"I never had any requests to keep silent or keep quiet, but at the same time I knew how my family felt about my brother — how proud they were of him," said Gingrich at A Different Light. She lived in the shadow of the charismatic Newt from a very early age. "I figured that if I were to come out — letters to the editor, head of the parade, anything like that — if it were to affect his career the wrong way, I'd risk losing them: their respect, their love."

Although she'd been "involved in advocacy for women's issues" in college, and graduated in 1989 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in sociology, she "chose to remain what I've been calling 'blissfully ignorant'"

from 1987 until 1994. I voted but didn't really pay attention to the issues."

Then Newt escalated his anti-gay attacks. Friends started bugging her. Reporters were asking questions. Gingrich decided she was "bored" with her job in Pennsylvania sorting boxes for UPS, and moved to Washington, D.C. with a new goal: to become her brother's worst nightmare as a queer spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign [HRC], a national gay political group.

"I haven't been in the trenches very long," she admits in response to critics of her new-found celebrity. "But what I've been able to do is take advantage of the fact that people want to know more about the relationship. People want to know how we can be from the same family and have such different opinions. I'm not doing this for admiration; I'm not doing this for credit. I'm doing this because honestly if I hadn't taken advantage of it, I'm not sure that I'd be able to live with myself, knowing that I had an opportunity and could have done something and chose not to." ▼

'Art for Life' auction kicks off in October to benefit Face to Face

by Cynthia Laird

Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network will hold its ninth annual "Art for Life" auction Saturday, October 5. Art lovers will also have a chance to preview the works in the popular fundraising auction at a three-day pre-auction exhibit opening Wednesday, October 2 in Santa Rosa.

"Art for Life" is the largest annual fundraiser for Face to Face, and has raised over \$400,000 to date for Sonoma County AIDS

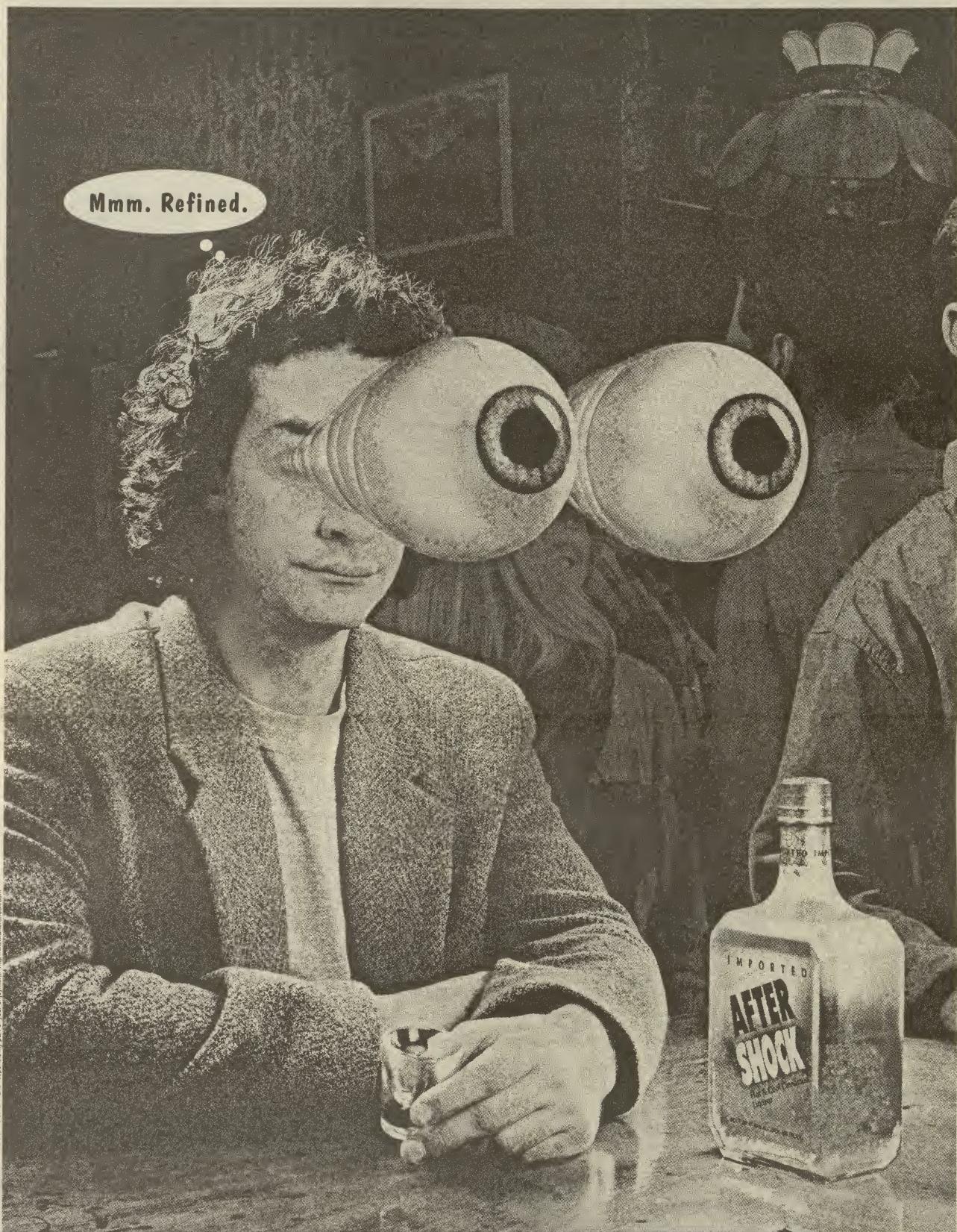
services.

All 250 works of art to be auctioned off will be on display at the pre-auction exhibit, which is free and open to the public. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. on October 2; noon to 4 p.m. on October 3; and noon to 7 p.m. on October 4. The exhibit is being underwritten by the *Press Democrat*.

A gala opening reception will be held Thursday, October 3 from 5 to 8 p.m., with a special appearance by the Occidental Community Choir. Tickets to the event, limited to 150 guests, are \$75 and include a ticket to Saturday's auction.

Tickets to the Saturday auction, from 3:30 to 7 p.m., are \$39. According to organizers, Sonoma County wines and hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants and caterers will be available for sampling. KPIX-TV's Ann Fraser will be the honorary hostess, with music by Bob Lucas. ▼

All events will take place at the Friedman Center, located at 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa. For tickets or more information, call Face to Face at (707) 544-1581.



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Speed use draws attention at forums and conference

by Liz Highleyman

A September 9th forum entitled "Crystal in the Castro" was the first of a series of Stop AIDS Project meetings about speed use in various San Francisco communities. A similar meeting was held Tuesday, September 24th to discuss speed use in the South of Market area, the hub of the gay club scene.

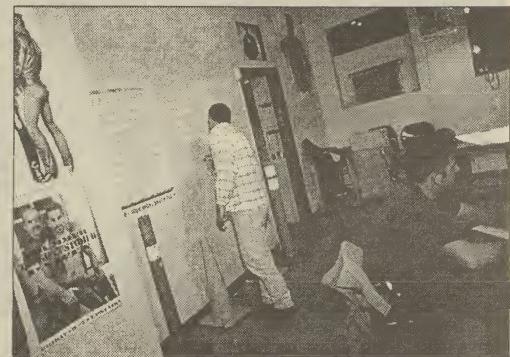
The forums brought together current and former speed users, AIDS prevention workers, and concerned people who live, work, and socialize in the neighborhoods to discuss their concerns about amphetamine use and ways to alleviate its negative effects.

Amphetamines (speed, crystal) are stimulant drugs that cause a feeling of alertness and a sense of well-being. Speed increases stamina and reduces the desire to eat and sleep. It can make people feel

more outgoing and heighten sexual desire, although it may interfere with the ability to reach orgasm.

Methamphetamine - a white powder cheaply manufactured from common chemicals - may be taken orally, snorted, smoked, or injected. Amphetamines affect neurotransmitters, the chemicals in the brain that control communication between nerve cells. A high lasts for 12-15 hours, and a speed "run" may last for a number of days; after the high wears off, a user typically feels depressed and lethargic. In the words of Stop AIDS Project's Matthew Denckla, speed can literally "drain your brain" of these necessary chemicals. With continued use, larger quantities of speed may be needed to achieve the desired effect, and heavy use can lead to paranoia and psychosis.

At the September 9th meeting, Patrick Barresi of the Stop AIDS



Gregory H. Fleischer

Crystal clear: SAP's Eric McIntyre adds to the "Why do we love crystal?" list while Patrick Barresi (right) leads a discussion group on the subject at Blow Buddies.

Project noted the reluctance to address drug use because such concerns seem moralistic and threatening to people's freedom of choice. One participant pointed out that as a "community of outlaws," we don't like to be told what to do. However, several others emphasized that speed use affects not only the user, but also the user's friends and the community as a whole, and is therefore a legitimate cause for community-wide concern.

Participants discussed the social meaning of speed within the gay community. Crystal has become part of the social landscape for many (especially young) gay men, and some felt that it had "taken over" entire segments of the social scene. Speed is widely available in dance clubs, cruising areas, and on the streets. As to why crystal is so popular, forum attendees spoke of the way speed gives its users more time in their overly busy lives, provides an instant social circle, improves self-esteem and self-confidence, facilitates interpersonal interaction in a community that all too often seems devoid of real intimacy, and relieves - albeit temporarily - feelings of grief and loss in a community stricken by AIDS.

Crystal and sex

Many users treat speed as an aphrodisiac. Unfortunately, an amphetamine rush can make users forget about - or not care

about - safer sex. According to the Stop AIDS Project, speed users are five times more likely to become infected with HIV. Heightened libido may increase the risk of unprotected sex, and prolonged time to orgasm can increase the length and vigor of intercourse, potentially leading to tissue damage which may facilitate HIV transmission. Sharing needles to inject speed can lead to direct blood-to-blood transmission of HIV and hepatitis B. Yet as Michael Siever of New Leaf pointed out, people can and do use condoms when high. Unprotected sex should not be seen as inevitable among speed users, nor should being high be regarded as an acceptable excuse for unsafe sex.

Andy Williams of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies spoke of the phenomenon of social isolation among speed users. Non-users often fail to address their speed-using friends directly about the issue, and people tend to become segregated into social groups of non-users and "tweakers." Another participant noted that speed tends to make people tense, paranoid, and unfriendly; he claimed that there is a "speed energy" in the Castro - especially on weekend nights - that is driving people away from the area.

Several attendees expressed a belief that the community as a whole should "take a tougher stance" on speed use, and to let

page 31 ►

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HIV+ inmate remains in lock-up at Vacaville following protest

Officials: 'There was no hunger strike'

by Cynthia Laird

A HIV-positive prisoner remained in lock-up this week at the California Medical Facility (CMF) at Vacaville, two weeks after a one-day hunger and medication strike by about 100 inmates living with HIV/AIDS on September 3. Prison officials deny there was a hunger strike.

"Our position is that there was no hunger strike," Lieutenant Scott Kernan told the B.A.R. "There was some discontent. We take hunger strikes very seriously."

Judy Greenspan, director of the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project operated by Catholic Charities of the East Bay, said that the disagreement over semantics does not surprise her.

"For a day the men did not go to the chow hall," Greenspan said.

The prisoners held their demonstration to call attention to a list of demands, several of which focused on a correctional officer and his alleged harassment against African-American and gay inmates in the V-wing of the prison's HIV unit.

On September 12, Greenspan said she received a call from an of-

ficial in the California Department of Corrections (CDC) Director's office. Greenspan had written to Director James Gomez asking that there be an investigation into the allegations made by the prisoners. She said she was pleased to receive a response from the department and that the official told her he will be going to CMF to investigate the matter.

Two weeks ago, Kernan said prison officials are "supporting the officer 100 percent," and said the inmates' allegations stem from displeasure over prison regulations.

"We will be taking a look at the issues raised by the inmates independently," Kernan said. "We received an appeal from the inmates and we'll be responding to that."

As for HIV-positive inmate Ezra Davis III, who's a member of Greenspan's prison advisory board, he remains in lock-up. Kernan said Davis was placed in "administrative segregation" for inciting other inmates. Three other prisoners who were initially placed in lock-up have since been released back to their cells, Kernan added.

"Ezra's charge is that he organized a hunger strike. They always try to find a scapegoat," Greenspan told the B.A.R. "It's

pretty clear to me that they [the inmates] are pretty united against this one officer. A lot of the problems stem from this one officer."

"This guard started harassing people in August about their property," Greenspan said, adding that prisoners told her the correctional officer just "passes by white inmates."

The specific regulation in question pertains to inmates being held to six cubic-feet of property, excluding legal papers. Kernan maintained the officer was just following procedures. Greenspan countered that the guard is "trying to rewrite the book."

Greenspan said she went to CMF on September 12 to meet with Davis, whom she described as a respected jailhouse lawyer with support among other inmates.

"Ezra said prisoners have circulated a petition on his behalf," Greenspan added.

There were several other complaints made by the inmates. They included having an open line for medical and sick calls at least once a week, conjugal visits for HIV-positive inmates with their spouses, improved ventilation for all cells, and more library and yard access for HIV-positive inmates. ▼

State narcs, sheriff's deputies raid LA CBC

One pound of pot seized, four arrested

by Cynthia Laird

State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) agents and Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies raided the Los Angeles Cannabis Buyers Club on Monday, September 16, seizing about one pound of marijuana and \$600 in cash, and arresting four people.

Scott Imler, founder of the 300-member buyers club in West Hollywood that started operating in November 1995, said the bust occurred as he was on his way to Santa Cruz to meet with BNE agents. That meeting never happened.

In spite of the raid, two days later, on September 18, the club was back in operation working out of a local church, where it continues to do business, Imler said. The club sells marijuana for medical use to people who have HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses.

According to Imler, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies outside of the West Hollywood area received a complaint from a disgruntled person.

"What the sheriff's office is saying is that there was a local complaint from someone who

was denied a [club] membership who thought they should get one," Imler said.

Last week's raid started around 4 p.m., and lasted for a couple of hours. All of those who were arrested were released on their own recognition at around 2 a.m., Imler said.

Imler said that sheriff's deputies serving West Hollywood, where the club is located, were kept "out of the loop" concerning the operation.

Club members see the raid as another politically-motivated effort by state Attorney General Dan Lungren. Imler said he thinks the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club raid on August 4 was politically motivated, in spite of allegations by law enforcement officials that the club sold large quantities of pot and had children on the premises. He and other club staff were surprised by last week's raid of the Southern California club.

"We don't sell pounds," Imler told the B.A.R. "The Attorney General's Office made it clear they weren't going after clubs that followed the rules."

He said club staff recognized some of the BNE agents who participated in the raid, as they had

apparently tried to get membership in the club a few months ago. Imler said they were turned down because they didn't have adequate documentation.

"It's obvious the BNE had done some investigating on their own," Imler said.

Unlike the San Francisco raid, authorities did not seize club members' medical records, Imler said, though some were photocopied by officers.

Following the bust, Imler said they were locked out of the building by their landlords, which is what led to the move to Crescent Heights United Methodist Church in West Hollywood.

Peter Cashman of ACT UP/Los Angeles denounced the raid and accused Lungren and Los Angeles Sheriff Sherman Block of "self-serving political posturing at the expense of dying people."

"ACT UP/LA charges that the LA raid, like the San Francisco raid, is entirely politically motivated," Cashman stated.

Imler noted that there is an air of fear among club members.

"Our people were afraid after the San Francisco bust. Certainly I think a lot of patients are afraid and our suppliers are afraid," he said. ▼

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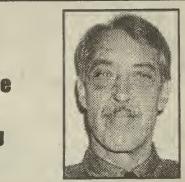
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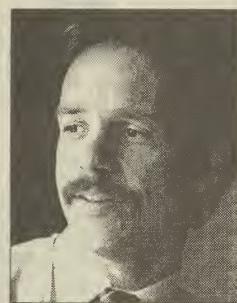
Sacto gay lesbian hate crime study 'significant'

by Marghe Covino

The findings of a four-year UC Davis study on hate crimes against lesbians and gays are expected to have significant future impacts upon legislation, post-crime treatment, and other minority groups.

The study, the first of its kind, deals with the serious psychological effects of hate crimes based on sexual orientation. A team of researchers led by Dr. Gregory Herek, a UC Davis research psychologist, revealed their findings to a community group in Sacramento at the Lambda Community Center Wednesday, September 25. Herek said he felt that since the study was conducted in the Sacramento area, the findings should be shared there first.

"It's our way of giving our research findings back to the community whose members made it



Dr. Gregory M. Herek.

possible," said Eric Glunt, a project director for another Herek-led study. Other team members include Dr. Jeanine Cogan and Dr. J. Roy Gillis.

Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the study found that lesbian and gay sur-

vivors of hate crimes during the last five years showed more signs of psychological distress – including depression, stress, and anger – than did gay and lesbian survivors of comparable non-bias motivated crimes during the same time period.

Herek noted that while all victims of serious crime are at risk for such distress, the symptoms tend to diminish over time. For non-bias crime survivors, most psychological problems diminished considerably within two years. However, hate crime victims suffer higher levels of symptoms for as long as five years after the crime occurred.

Herek says the more intense symptoms and longer time frame appear to be due to hate crime victims' feelings of personal danger and vulnerability. While all crime victims feel personal danger and vulnerability, for gays and lesbians those feelings become linked with their gay or lesbian identity and become more intense because sexual identity is an important part of self-concept.

Kinds of victimizations

Other findings confirm the issues surrounding self-concept, and show that hate crime victimization for gays and lesbians is a serious problem even in towns and cities away from large urban centers. Some respondents reported hate crimes or attempted hate crimes since they were 16 years old. Types of victimization included assaults, rapes, robberies, thefts, and vandalism.

The study indicates that hate crimes among gays and lesbians are less likely to be reported to the police, with only one-third of the victims reporting. More men than women were likely to report hate crimes to the police, while no such gender difference was found in the 57 percent of non-bias hate crimes reported.

"The significance of this study is that it's the first of its kind for gays and lesbians and possibly for hate crimes in general," Herek said. "At least I haven't seen anything of its size with either the gay and lesbian community or any other minority groups. The important implications of this study have to do with legislation on hate crimes."

"This study shows special legislation detractors that hate crimes are different, they have greater impact on victims over a longer period of time. There is also significance here for victims of hate crimes and the people who are trying to help them."

"The knowledge that there is a long-term overall serious impact on people who have been targets allows us to look out for different manifestations of depression, flashbacks, and anger and to treat those symptoms. It's important for therapists, those who do advocacy work, and the loved ones of victims not to assume it just goes away."

Herek and his team presented their findings on hate crimes last month at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Toronto. In addition to hate crimes were their findings on: "choice" in sexual orientation; self-labeling, i.e., "gay" versus "queer"; being out of the closet; coming out to relatives; jobs; relationships; and family. ▼

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Bubba signs DoMA

by Bob Roehr

Folklore has it that evil things happen in the dead of night. So it was perhaps fitting that Bill Clinton put pen to paper at 12:50 a.m. on Saturday, September 21 to sign the Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA). He thus completed the process of codifying for the first time into federal law this major form of discrimination against lesbians and gays.

Clinton's statement in signing the bill said, "Discrimination ... violate[s] the principle of equal protection under the law and has no place in American society." Yet he also "long opposed governmental recognition of same-gender marriages." He said the bill "clarifies for purposes of federal law the operative meaning of the terms 'marriage' and 'spouse'" — thus making gay partners ineligible for health insurance coverage, Social Security survivors benefits, and dozens of other federal benefits and protections.

The President took the opportunity "to urge Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act." He came late to that position. When the bill was introduced in the Senate in 1994, when Democrats controlled Congress, he prevented Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick from testifying on its behalf. Instead, Patrick sent a letter supporting the general principle of non-discrimination but not ENDA itself. It took more than a year for Clinton to sign on.

"It's sort of typical of Clinton doublespeak," said Bob Barr (R-Ga.), a leading proponent of DoMA, of Clinton's statement. "It leaves the country wondering whether he's really committed to it."

"I'm angry," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "I wanted President Clinton to act

with the highest moral leadership, and he has not. It is an unheroic move." HRC endorsed Clinton for reelection in February, and has said it will not reconsider that endorsement.

"Remember the day the lesbian and gay Americans were singled out for second-class citizenship," said Reverend Mel White, Justice Minister with the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). He led a fast and vigil against DoMA, and was one of nine people arrested in front of the White House the previous week in protest.

"For the first time in US history, the legislative and executive branches have used their combined powers to legalize discrimination against lesbian and gay citizens," White said. "President Clinton has enshrined into law the false and inflammatory rhetoric of Pat Robertson and other religious extremists. We must not go silently into the dark night of intolerance and discrimination."

Evan Wolfson, with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and co-counsel in the Hawaii legal challenge to gay marriage, called DoMA "the creation of a federal caste system for marriage (second-class citizens, second-class marriages). DoMA is appalling, it is radical, it is unconstitutional, it is disgusting. Politicians who voted for it should be ashamed of themselves."

Protests to Clinton's signing were muted, perhaps because the community has already been drained by the news — first from the House, then the Senate — or perhaps because the unusual time he signed it kept many people unaware of the act.

A handful of protesters greeted Clinton as he left church in Washington on Sunday morning. About 50 gathered that evening in San Francisco. ▼

Boston Magazine opens closet door on anti-gay gay

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The October Boston Magazine — on newsstands September 30 — includes an article about high-ranking GOP political consultant Arthur J. Finkelstein that shows the apparent dissonance between his orchestrated victories for archconservative anti-gay politicians, and his "semi-out status" as a gay man with a partner — and two adopted children.

Journalist Stephen Rodrick draws a careful portrait of Finkelstein, a media-shy operative who prefers to work from the shadows in masterminding his own "ruthless brand of political warfare."

"He has become a millionaire by working for politicians whose policies attack a very important and intimate part of his life," Rodrick writes. "Specifically, four of Finkelstein's clients in the Senate — Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Bob Smith of New Hampshire, Don Nickles of Oklahoma and North Carolina's Lauch Faircloth — form the core opposition to nearly all gay issues before Congress."

On September 18, the Washington Post noted that Finkelstein is still working for Smith, who op-

poses gay adoption, but that Smith "did not return calls seeking comment on Finkelstein as the adoptive father of a 9-year-old girl."

While confirming that he is gay, Finkelstein formally issued a statement that "I keep my private life separate from my business life — something my friends and clients understand, appreciate, and respect." Despite that comment, Newsweek and the New York Daily News also found his sexual orientation relevant to the larger story of his politics and business.

There is a new trend of "outing" in journalism. Many journalists now seem to agree that reporting a political personality is gay is not an invasion of privacy, but merely the accurate coverage of an important aspect of that person's life. Their sexual orientation may be a crucial part of the story, particularly when the person shapes policies that effect the lesbian and gay community. Speaking about Finkelstein's homosexuality, for instance, illuminates the sad and greedy hypocrisy of his business life. ▼

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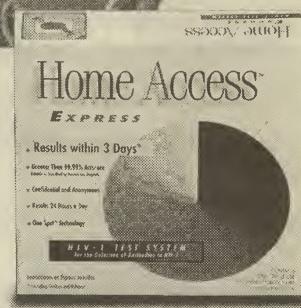


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PI thinking: Views on protease inhibitors

by Stephen LeBlanc,
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

At the XI International AIDS conference in July in Vancouver, and the I.C.A.A.C. conference last week in New Orleans, a growing body of evidence was presented showing that combinations of anti-viral drugs using protease inhibitors (PIs) can lower a person's HIV viral load more than any other available anti-HIV therapy. Evidence is also gathering that correlates reduced viral load with longer term survival, and those of us in ACT UP/Golden Gate have seen many of our friends' health improve dramatically on these new therapies.

However, there remains much confusion about how to use these drugs. Conclusive clinical data is not available regarding exactly when and how best to use PIs, and because of the length of time needed to gather such data, chances are that it will be outdated.

ed by the availability of new drugs by the time it is developed. Patients with HIV and their doctors must therefore make choices based on the best data available and in light of common sense regarding what is known about. What follows are some observations regarding use of these therapies.

Timing isn't necessarily everything

A key factor to achieving and maintaining a long-term anti-viral effect when using PIs is to take the drug in such a way as to delay or prevent the emergence of PI-resistant virus. Drug resistance develops as a result of mutations that happen in the HIV genetic code when HIV RNA is copied into DNA, just after the virus infects a new cell and before the cell starts producing more virus. One strategy for preventing resistance is to maintain a regular drug-taking schedule, consistent with food intake directions, so that drug levels in the bloodstream will be constantly high enough to reduce

viral replication, hopefully delaying the emergence of resistance.

However, many AIDS treatment activists are coming to believe that too much can be made of a "regular drug-taking schedule." A debate raged for the last several weeks on Crix-List@pinkpage.com, an Internet discussion group for users of Crixivan, the most widely used of the PIs, regarding whether people who couldn't take their Crixivan on a strict every-8-hour schedule should take the drug at all. Some participants in the debate maintained that people missing a dose by even an hour or two were doing themselves more harm than good and also harming the community because PI-resistant HIV would spread.

Theo Smart, treatment advocate for Gay Men's Health Crisis, finds this view extreme. "Yes, people on PIs should absolutely take the drug every day at the recom-

mended dosages," says Smart, "but it's unlikely that being an hour or two off is going to make that much of a difference. Even precisely timing PI dosage will not guarantee constant blood-levels, because the human body doesn't work that way. Normal daily rhythms affect how a drug is processed in the body and levels in the blood. People who otherwise feel they would benefit from taking a PI, shouldn't not do so because they aren't sure they can time their doses exactly."

And while, for the time being, people taking Crixivan should follow the 8-hour dosing schedule currently recommended by Merck, the drug's manufacturer, Merck is now beginning clinical trials to test the efficacy of twice-a-day dosing.

Don't just do it

A long-lasting benefit from PI therapy comes from avoiding

viral resistance. Doing so requires combining PIs with other therapy because, while PIs are effective at suppressing viral load, it is relatively easy for the virus to find mutations around the PIs. The protease enzyme, which PIs blocks, is a small HIV enzyme. Protease is a three-dimensional machine, constructed of 99 amino acids, that grabs onto a long, non-functional viral protein, searches for particular locations, and then cuts protein into smaller functional units the virus needs to be infectious. PIs are designed to bind tightly to the cutting mechanism of the protease enzyme and block the cutting action. However, a change in one or more of the 99 amino acids that make up the protease enzyme can change the shape of the cutting mechanism so that the PI cannot bind. If that change results in a protease enzyme that can still correctly perform its function, then the virus is said to be resistant to that drug. All three available PIs have associated with them a large number of possible mutations that cause partial resistance, and resistance develops quickly when any of the PIs are used alone.

PIs, while excellent suppressors of viral load, provide only a short wall of resistance the virus needs to jump over, so even though there are just a few viruses reproducing, some of them eventually get over that short wall when PIs are used alone. A similar rationale applies to the NNRTIs, which bind very tightly directly to another viral enzyme, but at a location that it is easy for the virus to mutate.

Reverse transcriptase (RT), in contrast to protease, is a large and complex viral enzyme of about 500 amino acids that grabs hold of the viral RNA, uses host nucleotides in the cellular fluid to create a single strand DNA sequence that matches the viral RNA, and then uses additional nucleotides to make the complement of that DNA strand to create double strand DNA. Nucleoside analogues, such as AZT, 3TC, DDI, DDC, and D4T, block the action of RT by forming decoys for the nucleotides. When these decoys are grabbed by the RT enzyme they cause the RT enzyme to freeze, and viral replication is halted.

However, none of these drugs are very good suppressors of HIV, in part because their action is somewhat more indirect than PIs. Like protease, the RT enzyme can mutate in order to avoid the action of the inhibitor, but it is harder for the virus to find the resistance mutations for RT for a given nucleoside, as there are fewer mutations associated with RT resistance proportional to the length of the RT enzyme. So, while nucleoside analogues provide a high wall of resistance for the virus to jump over, they are such poor viral suppressers that the virus has a large number of chances to make the jump when the drugs are taken alone.

In theory, a good strategy would be to combine a therapy that was hard for the virus to mutate around (a high resistance wall) with a therapy that reduced the virus' chances to make it over that wall. In fact, combinations of PIs or NNRTIs (another class of drugs that is highly suppressive of HIV but for which resistance develops easily) with nucleoside analogues have proven far more effective and long-lasting than taking either class alone. For this

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HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

License to burn



Straight People Against Sexual Apartheid in Marriage (SPASAM) demonstrated Sunday, Sept. 22, at 18th and Castro against Bill Clinton's signing of DoMA the previous day. Here a young man torches a marriage license in protest.

combined inhibition to work effectively, however, the person's viral population must not already be highly resistant to the action of the nucleoside analogues. It is therefore very important that PIs not simply be added to an already failing anti-viral therapy. Ideally, PIs or NNRTIs should be started at or very near the same time that a person is beginning a nucleoside analogue combination to which he or she is not already resistant.

While it is accepted that PIs should not be added to a failing anti-viral regimen, some doctors still talk about "holding back" protease inhibitors "until they are needed" and starting someone out on a nucleoside analogue combination, such as AZT/3TC. This strategy is inconsistent with what is currently understood about viral resistance and with recently available clinical data. The best clinical results thus far, in terms of amount and duration of viral load reduction, are in people who had never taken AZT, 3TC, or Crixivan and who started a combination of those three drugs at the same time. This information suggests that for those who have never used anti-virals, the two most defensible choices are to either start aggressive anti-viral therapy, including a PI or NNRTI, or to wait and take no anti-viral therapy until more data is available. There does not appear to be a good rationale, in terms of pro-

longing anti-viral effect, for starting off slowly - it only helps the virus develop resistance.

Kidney punch

Finally, it should be pointed out yet again that all available anti-viral therapies have side effects or toxicities that must be considered when deciding on treatment. AIDS progression is highly variable. People with HIV must examine carefully the likely benefits from a therapy to them individually given their rate of progression and weigh against these benefits the possible harm from toxicity.

A growing concern with Crixivan is its effects on the kidneys, with a fairly large percentage of people taking it reporting severe episodes of kidney stones or sludge in the kidneys. Merck, the drug's manufacturer, has yet to be forthcoming with any additional data regarding development of kidney problems on Crixivan or with a solution.

People taking Crixivan may want to call the Merck Product Information Line at 1 (800) 927-8888 to get their name and address added to a mailing list for recent updates regarding Crixivan. People having bad experiences with Crixivan, especially related to kidney stones or other PIs, should call the same number. Consumers can also call the FDA at 1 (800) 532-4440. ▼

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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

David Castro
Aug. 29, 1964 – July 27, 1996



David Antony Castro died July 27 in the arms of his family at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle from AIDS complications. David was born in Seattle, graduated from Bremerton High, and later from the Cinderella Beauty School. He moved to San Francisco not long after finishing high school, then returned to Seattle a few years later.

In 1992, David moved to San Diego. In 1994, he moved to Los Angeles, where he worked as a hair stylist, personal assistant and model. In May 1996, he was hospitalized in Los Angeles, where he remained until he flew home to Seattle, accompanied by his mother and father, and was admitted to the American Cancer Society.

David is survived by hundreds of friends from San Diego to Vancouver; mother, Claudia Hunt; father, Richard Castro; stepmother, Carol Castro; sisters, Andrea Britt, Melissa Warren and Stephanie Meengs; stepbrother, Kenny Woods; stepson, Lori Horner; grandmothers, Fern Hunt and Margaret Casstro; and three nephews and three nieces.

Memorial services were held Aug. 3 at Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Bremerton. Donations may be made to the Northwest AIDS Foundation, 127 Broadway Ave. E., Ste. 200, Seattle, WA 98122. A celebration of David's life was held Sept. 22 in Los Angeles.

Matt liked living an independent life in SF and enjoyed the finer nuances the city offered. He had varied and separate circles of friends. A loyal friend, he was always ready to go out on the town or take a drive to the Russian River.

We all enjoyed Matt's quick and often sarcastic wit and his unwavering opinions on life. When he was right, he had penetrating insight. He was never at a loss for words. We will miss him very much.

Matt is survived by his mother; brother, Randy; sister-in-law, Sheila; nephews, Kevin and Connor; and his good friends, Richard and Michael. Thanks to the staff and volunteers of SF General Ward 5A, Laguna Honda Ward 04 and friends Gale and Richard for their compassion and love.

Mark Anthony Davalos
Sept. 18, 1956 – Sept. 17, 1996



After a heroic struggle with AIDS, Mark died in San Francisco in the arms of his beloved partner, Todd Mangini; his mother; father; brother; and best friends. A native San Franciscan, Mark attended St. Gabriel's Grammar School, St. Ignatius College Preparatory, U.C. Berkeley, and USF's Graduate School of Human Resources and Organizational Development.

Mark had a long and successful career in business, and was a friend and mentor to many. He loved his dogs, Kimo and Schroeder; morning music at Trocadero; and most of all, his one and only, Todd Mangini.

He left his friends the words of Antoine de Saint Exupéry's *The Little Prince*: "In one of the stars I shall be living. And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing when you look at the sky at night." Look for Mark in the night sky. Memorial contributions can be made to

Maitri AIDS Hospice and Project Open Hand/San Francisco.

James Michael Derdzinski Jr.
Aug. 14, 1965 – Sept. 10, 1996



Jim peacefully departed this earth on Tuesday, Sept. 10, after a recurrence of melanoma cancer. A native of Illinois and Indiana, Jim moved to the Bay Area on Feb. 20, 1995, and lived it!

As an executive secretary, Jim worked in various areas with Bank of America and most recently with his new company, Teachers Insurance Annuity Associate/CREF. He worked so hard to make a place in our society and the Bay Area, and he was so proud of that effort.

Jim is survived by his loving family: mother, Helen Kenzie; brother, Raymond J. Derdzinski; sister, Karen L. Kenzie; and stepfather, Gerald C. Kenzie. He is also survived by me, Larry Herzog, his lover, partner and friend, and no way can I forget my dearest friends, Omar Kubian and Marty Kovacek, who gave Jim all their love and support and allowed me time to love one of the kindest, sweetest and gentle men to have walked this earth.

My thanks to God for giving us Jim to us all and to leave all with such wonderful happy memories. Jim will always be lovingly remembered. Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Allen F. Holmes
Aug. 27, 1951 – Feb. 18, 1996

After an absence of communication and with concern and love to locate Allen, it was learned that he had passed away from pneumonia in New York. A traditional funeral and burial were held there. Allen is survived by his mother, aunt and other relatives in New York.

A New Yorker, Allen came to the East Bay in the 1970s and remained here until the mid-1980s when he returned to the East Coast. He was employed at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley.

Kind, caring, well-traveled, well-read, handsome, with a wonderful laugh and sense of humor, Allen strove to achieve many goals and realize his dream of a quality life with a special partner. He leaves behind friends and associates in the East Bay Area, especially his longtime special friend, Bill, whom he met in Berkeley in 1978.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for Allen on Monday, Oct. 7, at 8 a.m. at St. Joseph's Basilica, 1109 Chestnut St., Alameda, Calif.

As William Shakespeare wrote, "Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." I will always love you, my dear Allen.

William (Bill) Knudtson, Ph.D.
Jan. 14, 1938 – Sept. 17, 1996



Bill Knudtson died on Tuesday, Sept. 17. He was found alone on the floor, his heart spent.

Bill taught that life was a paradox and his life reflected this. He married early and remained lifelong friends with his wife, Frances, following their divorce. He founded the Gay Men's Spiritual Retreat, which continues to nourish the spirits of gay men 15 years later. He was a doctor of psychology who treated many, sometimes at the expense of his own well-being.

Bill was wise, witty, and compassionate. He traveled widely, wrote haiku, and played the piano beautifully. He lifted the spirits of his friends with the laughter that was never far away.

Bill was an alcoholic and struggled with this for much of his adult life. He was also one who supported this writer's successful attempt to remain sober for 21 years. He leaves behind what is empty and what is full.

Bill was always an open house, an open heart and an open mind. Rest well, dear friend. I bow to your memory.

Bill will be remembered at Newman's Hall, Berkeley, on Friday, Sept. 27, at 4 p.m.

August Marth
July 25, 1959 – Sept. 7, 1996

August Marth was born in Sarasota, Fla. He moved to San Francisco in the early '80s, where he found his true home. His zest for life and biting sense of humor captured many of us who

loved him. Never at a shortage for words, August intrigued, educated, mystified, and entertained many who will miss him now. His long, brave struggle – both physical and mental – was a source of inspiration and admiration for his courage.

August moved to Miami Beach in September 1989, where he bought his first home. He enjoyed the last seven years of his life near the water he had always loved.

Friends too many to mention who loved and cared for August, we would like to advise you that he passed away on Saturday, Sept. 7, in his sleep at his home in Florida. We know he is causing mischief, romping with his kitty, "Spike." Please send donations to Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS). For more information, call Bob Siebert at 415/457-4998.

Howard Nebeker
Aug. 11, 1934 – Aug. 27, 1996

Howard died peacefully after a long battle with cryptosporidium, having lived with HIV for 15 years. He was attended at home by hospice workers, family and friends in the last stages of his illness. He was alone with his longtime friend, Mark Harker, when he died.

Howard lost his battle with AIDS, but healed his life in the process and left only happy memories. He was cremated and his ashes scattered in the sea off Hawaii in accordance with his wishes.

A memorial dinner will be held in Howard's honor Oct. 5. If interested in attending, contact Mark Harker at 415/864-4209.

Robert William Sellman
Dec. 2, 1955 – Aug. 28, 1996

Robert was born in Berkeley and lived his life in the spirit of open, colorful existence. A gay renaissance poet of the early 1970s, he was the youngest poet published in the Gay Sunshine anthology, *Orgasms of Light*. However, his greatest achievement, he said, was caring for his grandmother, Loraine Mann; his great-uncle, Leslie Clark Mann; and his mother, Patsy-Lorraine Sellman; until their deaths.

Robert died of AIDS, fortunate to survive the loss of many friends, including Raymond Perkins, Richard Noshey, Rich Clark, William Dobbins and others too numerous to mention. Robert leaves his second husband and loved longtime companion, William DeLao; stepdaughter, Marie DeLao; mother-in-law, Melia DeLao; brother, Glenn Paul Sellman; and sister-in-law, Marie Marsellis. He is also survived by his first husband, Claude Williams Masquerand, and many loving friends and relatives, including his father, William Leon Sellman, and stepmother, Mona Sellman.

Robert attended Sacramento State University, Santa Fe Contemporary Workshops of Art and New College. After 18 years at Pacific Bell, he retired as a manager in 1995.

Robert converted to Roman Catholicism in 1994 and asks that any donations be made to Most Holy Redeemer Restoration Fund/HIV Services.

Richard Eugene Vogel
March 27, 1945 – Aug. 7, 1996

Born and raised in the Oregon/Washington area, Richard came out of the closet in the Navy in Vietnam before his honorable discharge in 1968, later finding work as Dottie West's marketing/booking assistant until he and his soulmate/partner, Tommy St. Hilaire, moved to San Francisco in 1978 to open a clerical agency. When Tommy passed on in 1990, their business, along with Richard's emotional and physical health, waned until Richard was diagnosed with inoperable cancer this year, later peacefully passing on at Coming Home Hospice.

Richard was actively involved at Christ of the Advent Episcopal Church,

COMMUNITY NEWS



Wined and dined: The Horizons Foundation's annual soirée, held at the ANA Hotel Sept. 17, was a wine and hors d'oeuvres fundraiser that marked the group's 16th year.

New outlook at Horizons

by Sandy DeWine

The Horizons Foundation, one of the country's community foundations serving a gay clientele, is at a crossroads in its sixteenth year. So said Horizons "Community Builder" award recipient Alvin Baum at its annual party September 17th at the ANA Hotel, who added that foundations face a double bind: people may not trust them with bequests until they think they're big and established enough to handle them — and they don't get that way without such gifts.

But, he said, "I sense Horizons is on the verge of a breakthrough from this chicken-and-the-egg syndrome." It's close to becoming as respectable as the Jewish Community Foundation, he said, where he's also on the board and working toward new programs to aid the gay community. Baum has been a local attorney, city planner, and therapist and is on the board of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

He and Emily Rosenberg, an information and direct mail consultant, both received the "Community Builder" award for their services to gay groups as volunteers, consultants, and board members. Rosenberg began her involvement with A Woman's Place Bookstore in the late 70s.

Unlike many such events this one wasn't a dinner. It caught an after-work crowd of about 200, who paid \$50 each for a 5:30 to 8:30 reception, with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

In keeping with the night's theme of "Giving for All Generations," special recognition was given to groups of elders, including Gay and Lesbian Outreach to

Elders and Spectrum Seniors in Marin. They read a statement from Phyllis Martin and Del Lyons, who contrasted the activism of their day, "done by unpaid volunteers," with that of today, "by national groups with million-dollar budgets."

Grants this year were for \$5,000 each, up from \$2,000 in the past, thanks to corporate sponsors such as Chevron, as well as individual donors. They were awarded to 27 groups in areas of arts and culture, education, health, AIDS, human services, and legal rights. Recipients included established groups like Women's Cancer Resource Center and LYRIC, and new ones like the proposed Community Center, which got a grant for promotional and direct mail materials to help it raise additional funds. Unlike most foundations, Horizons considers grants for start-up operations.

Requests were up 73% this year over last, with 83 proposals submitted to the Grants Review Committee. Its eight volunteers reviewed requests from organizations and interviewed them. Executive Director Doug Braley attributes the jump in applications to widespread cutbacks at nonprofits.

The foundation has received a \$25,000 grant from Pac Bell to develop a "Virtual Community Center" on the Internet, planned with Digital Queers. It will include information on groups, how to volunteer, and a calendar of fundraising events for those who don't already have their mailboxes stuffed with invitations. This year Horizons also got a matching grant of \$20,000 from PG&E; a \$25,000 matching grant from James Hormel; and a United Way grant of \$75,000. ▼

then at Freedom in Christ Evangelical Church. He was also on the Jireh Foundation's board of directors, a group dedicated to raising funds for AIDS-related charities and projects.

Predeceased by his last lover, Mark Duffy, Richard is survived by two brothers, Ron and Larry, and his close friends and fellow board members, Joel

Daniels, Mike Arbuckle and Timothy Paul.

Donations should be made to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., SF 94114 or to the Jireh Foundation, P.O. Box 192446, SF 94119. A memorial service will be held on Oct. 6, 1:30 p.m., at FICEC, 50 Belcher St., SF.

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by Cynthia Laird

An East Coast promoter who arrived in the city only a few months ago is putting together his second benefit concert for the Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC) and state Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative, to be held this Sunday, September 29 in San Francisco.

Mike Malott, who said he moved here from Atlanta, Georgia with the intention of making a low budget film, has put that project aside since becoming acquainted with CBC founder Dennis Peron and seeing people suffer with the closing of the CBC, following the August 4 raid by state narcotics authorities.

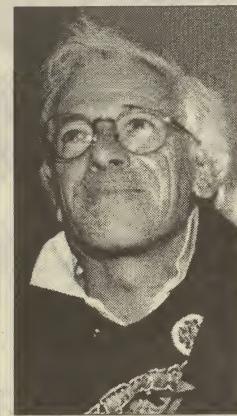
As a result he decided to put together the benefit shows that started last weekend. Malott said he hopes the concerts can continue each Sunday through November 3.

This is not the first musical benefit for Proposition 215 at 1444 Market Street, the site of the former CBC and presently the office for Californians for Compassionate Use, supporters of the medical marijuana initiative. Lynne Barnes at the CBC said there have been small benefit concerts going on every Sunday for about the past month.

"We have been having them, but Mike's trying to upscale them," Barnes said, referring to Malott's concert plans.

Sunday's concert features the San Francisco-based Sy Klopps Blues Band. The group is headed by Sy Klopps, who is really Herbie Herbert, former manager of Journey and influential music industry insider. Sy Klopps and his eight-piece band made their worldwide debut in 1994 when

they opened for Blues Traveler at the Fillmore.



CBC founder Dennis Peron.

Jane Philomen Cleland

they opened for Blues Traveler at the Fillmore.

Since then, they've shared stages with almost all the living blues giants, including James Brown, B.B. King, Koko Taylor, Etta James, Buddy Guy, John Lee Hooker, Robben Ford, John Mayall, Steve Miller, Elvin Bishop, and the Bay Area's Tommy Castro.

Malott said he's contacted several major artists in an effort to get them to contribute some time to Proposition 215, and hopes that future shows will feature performances by these artists. Additionally, he is hoping to attract top name musicians as spokespeople for the campaign.

Malott hopes the concerts will be a way to inform the public about Proposition 215. He said he feels the general public has the misguided impression that the medical marijuana movement is about "partying or something," instead of marijuana's medicinal qualities.

"This is an opportunity to get people educated about what 215 is all about, to get them in the door," Malott said.

Malott, a CBC member himself, said he suffers from chronic fatigue syndrome.

"It's nothing like the days of smoking a joint behind the high school when you were a kid. Marijuana clearly has a purpose here," Malott said.

"For many it is the only thing that stimulates their appetite and alleviates their suffering."

He praised Peron for the work he's done for the medical marijuana movement.

Dennis Peron is one of the most genuine, caring individuals I've ever met," Malott said. "He has done what he has, truly for love and compassion, and that has compelled me to do something for his cause that would make a difference."

Malott has just opened a production office in China Basin. His company, called The Factory, makes low budget independent films and does other entertainment and music-related projects. ▼

The benefit concert will start Sunday, 7 p.m. at 1444 Market Street in San Francisco. Admission is \$8 or \$6 for card-carrying CBC members. Local artists interested in performing at future shows should call Malott at (415) 621-0335.

Gay marriage trial concludes

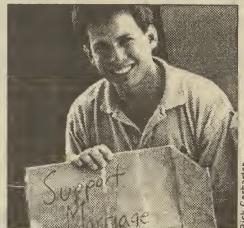
United Press International

After eight days of testimony from expert witnesses on child rearing, and about an hour of brief closing arguments, Hawaii's landmark same-sex marriage trial concluded Friday, September 20.

Hawaii Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang plans to rule on the case sometime in November, but a final ruling is not expected for at least a year because both sides have said they will appeal to the state Supreme Court.

During closing arguments for the state, Deputy Attorney General Rick Eichor re-emphasized that Hawaii's ban on same-sex marriages is in the best interest of children.

"We believe the evidence has shown that male-female relationships are the most likely to promote child development," Eichor said. "Children need a mother, father, and male-female influences



All for one: Same-sex marriage backer at the Capitol in Honolulu.

in their home.

"The state is entitled to identify the structure we believe is reasonable," Eichor said. "If marriage is reduced to love only, then why not allow three, four, or more people who love each other to marry?"

Dan Foley, one of the attorneys for the three gay couples suing the state after being denied marriage licenses, urged the judge to only consider evidence presented in

the case and whether the state has met its burden of showing a "compelling" reason why gays should be banned from getting married.

"Argument is not evidence," he told the judge in the non-jury trial.

"The record in this case shows that there is no evidence to show that issuing a marriage license to a same-sex couple will harm or has an adverse impact on a child," Foley said. "The undisputed evidence in this case is that same-sex parents and gay and lesbian parents are just as fit and as loving as heterosexual parents."

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled in 1993 that denying the three couples' marriage licenses amounted to gender discrimination and violated the state Constitution's equal protection clause unless the state could show a compelling state interest in doing so. The state said its compelling interest is promoting the optimal development of a child. ▼

Speed use

◀ page 18

users know that people care about what they are doing and the effects it's having on themselves and others. With all the apparent benefits of speed use, people shouldn't shy away from talking about the downside of the "crash" that follows a high, and the negative effects on one's health and budget.

The latter part of the meeting focused on concrete action steps. Participants agreed that the goal was not to demonize speed users or to drive them out of the Castro, but rather to open up a dialogue—to bring the issue out of the bathrooms and into the streets. Various tentative action proposals were put forth, including enlisting merchants in publicizing the issue with windows displays, creating alternative social activities where speed use is not expected, developing a "welcoming committee" to help introduce newcomers to the area, outreach in dance clubs, and a "talking wall" where people can convey their feelings about speed use and express their concerns for their speed-using friends.

International attention

The Stop AIDS forums are part of a wave of increased attention to speed use. At the First International Harm Reduction Conference held September 18-21 in Oakland, a plenary address and a workshop session were devoted to speed use among gay and bisexual men. Although amphetamine use is widely associated with the West Coast, it is becoming a national phenomenon. Chilly Clay, of the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, raised many of the same issues

discussed during the Castro forum. He noted that for many, crystal use is seen as liberating, allowing the exploration of sexual acts and body parts that are societally "forbidden." He also pointed out that for those disabled by AIDS, speed may be the only thing that enables them to get through the day—speed is "not just a way to get high, but also a way to get well."

During the workshop, participants, including Siever of New Leaf, speed expert Michael Gorman of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, Wayne Blankenship of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and Ferd Eggan of Los Angeles Community Development, discussed the sexual meanings of speed use. Although most speed users are heterosexual, the gay male community has been the first to call attention to the rise in speed use and its association with HIV/AIDS. Gorman stated that between 1990 and 1995, there has been a 1000% increase in emergency room admissions due to speed use. For gay and bisexual men, it is impossible to discuss speed use without discussing sexuality.

Yet as Eggan pointed out, there is not a necessary physical connection between speed use and sex, but rather a social construction unique to the gay male community. For some groups of gay speed users in parts of Europe and Australia, and for many young heterosexual users, "speed is the opposite of sex."

Eggan also called attention to the condition known as "crystal dick," in which one may experience increased sexual desire accompanied by an inability to sustain an erection or achieve orgasm, leading to the situation of

"ten million bottoms looking for a top," and the associated implications for safer sex. Blankenship emphasized the need for "after-care" for those who stop using speed, to help them find ways to incorporate "sober sex" back into their lives.

In keeping with the conference theme, participants discussed ways to make speed use safer for those who do not want to stop, including making sure to drink lots of water, eat enough food and get enough sleep, as well as keeping sex supplies readily available.

In response to a question about speed use among queer women, Siever stated that such use is significant among lesbian and bisexual women, who are more likely than drug-using queer men to use more than one drug. While the social connection between crystal use and sex is not prominent among women, lesbians and bisexual women appear increasingly to be adopting male patterns of drug use and sexual behavior, especially young queer women who socialize with young queer men. A former lesbian speed user claimed that "sexual identity becomes more malleable" when on speed, and noted that sex between lesbians and gay men while high was not uncommon. Siever also pointed out that speed use is common among transgendered persons, who may use it to help "facilitate persona change." ▼

The next Castro speed forum
will take place October 8th at
7:30 p.m. at the California
Federal building (444 Castro
Street). For more information,
contact Patrick Barresi at the
Stop AIDS Project, (415) 575-
1545, extension 257.

Rogge says that the conditions at the company grew so bad that he was forced to leave the firm last April. He remains unemployed, Cloutier said.

The lawsuit was served last week, but a formal response to the allegations has not been filed by attorneys for the butcher shop, according to Cloutier. A status conference in the case is set for February 7th.

Sexual orientation bias in employment and sexual harassment by bosses or co-workers are banned under California law. ▼

Butcher

◀ page 1

There are repeated acts of violence."

Cloutier told the B.A.R. that Rogge had not filed a police crime report about the incident.

Rogge said he complained to co-owner Terence Flannery about the mistreatment, but was allegedly told that "nothing inappropriate" had occurred and that Flannery did not believe him, according to the complaint. Flan-

ney also began openly referring to Rogge as a "faggot," the suit says.

In another alleged incident, Rogge found a news clipping stuffed in a pair of his shoes that referred to Digital Queers, a gay advocacy group which provides computer training and support to lesbian and gay rights groups around the country.

Co-workers began viciously harassing Bryan about the item, wondering out loud if he was "going digital" over the weekend.

SCHEDULE

Folsom St. Fair stages

Here is a list of the various bands, DJs, and entertainers which will be gracing the three stages at the Folsom Street Fair.

12th Street Stage: presented by Bud Light and Lucky Strike

MCs Gary Virginia, Joan Jett Blakk, Jet, and Danny Williams
11:30—12:15 Red Archibald
12:15—12:30 Norman Collins
12:30—1:00 Ganzer
1:00—1:15 Bright Brat
1:15—1:45 Blue Period
1:45—2:00 Tyler Stone
2:00—2:30 Marginal Prophets
2:30—2:45 LZ Love
2:45—3:15 Simon Stinger
3:15—3:30 Cara Vida
3:30—4:00 Extra Fancy
4:00—4:15 Catherine Coatney Fashion Show
4:15—4:45 Stone Fox
4:45—5:00 Danny Williams
5:00—5:45 Imperial Teen

7th Street Stage: presented by Schimirnoff and Jose Cuervo

MCs Emperor/Empress, Heklina & Madeline, and Tom Ammiano
12:30—1:00 Soul Divine
1:00—1:15 Imperial Court
1:15—1:45 Glamazon
1:45—2:00 Stacey Collins
2:00—2:30 Candy Ass
2:30—2:45 Shauna Hall
2:45—3:15 X-Girl 13
3:15—3:30 Gretchen Phillips
3:30—4:00 The Kuntyn Kunts
4:00—4:15 Charming Hostess
4:15—4:45 Van Gogh's Daughter
4:45—5:00 Tom Ammiano
5:00—5:45 Pat Wilder

10th Street Dance Stage: presented by Pleasuredome

11:00—12:00 Raymundo from Futura
12:00—1:00 Matthew Consola from Asia and Girl Spot
1:00—2:00 Blackstone from Club Universe and King St. Garage
3:00—4:00 Page Hotel
4:00—5:00 Neil Lewis from Pleasuredome
5:00—6:00 Phil B from Pleasuredome and The Cafe

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 207413

The following person(s) are doing business as COOKS & COMPANY, Ft. Mason Center Bldg B, San Francisco, CA 94123: Jane Luise Bray, 1 Vega St., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 28, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jane Bray. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 28, 1996.

Sept 5, 12, 19, 26, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 207673

The following person(s) are doing business as DELTA CAB, 1545 Rivera St, San Francisco, CA 94116; David Van 1545 Rivera Street, San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of September 09, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed David Van. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 09, 1996.

Sept 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 207741

The following person(s) are doing business as FAS, 39 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131-2021; Anthony Craig Brock, 39 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131-2021. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Anthony C. Brock. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 11, 1996.

Sept 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 208001

The following person(s) are doing business as FLOWER THERAPY, 3180 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; Mary Palmer, 314 Cuadro Ave, Millbrae, CA 94030; John Hudson, 314 Cuadro Ave, Millbrae, CA 94030; Barbara Sweeney, 177 Pipe Ct., Fairfax, CA 94930. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept 10, 1996. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Mary Palmer, John Hudson, Barbara Sweeney. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 10, 1996.

Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 17, 1996.

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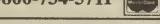
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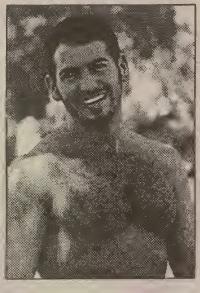
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Russian baritone Sergei Leiferkus brought romantic depth and sexy charm to his Berkeley recital.

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Stone Fox shoots from the lip, as dyke guitarists Yvette and Kim mouth off.

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Julian Fleisher is a die-hard supremacist when it comes to New York drag.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 39 • 26 September 1996

Room with a view

Vive L'Amour:
existential tryst
in a highrise

by Gary Morris



Lee Kang-Sheng weighs his options in *Vive L'Amour*.

The title makes *Vive L'Amour* sound like a minor French bedroom farce from the '60s (maybe directed by Claude Lelouch and starring Annie Girardot). But like the film itself, the title is deceptive. *Vive L'Amour* is in fact a Taiwanese film from 1994, a major work by one of the stars of Taiwan's New Cinema, Tsai Ming-liang (best known for 1993's *Rebels of the Neon God*). And its tone is far from the exuberance implied by the word "Vive." This is a masterfully bleak, subtly comic treatment of a unique love triangle — much of it unconscious and unrealized — among three people whose lives intersect in an empty, high-

rise apartment and the noisy, dehumanizing streets of modern, industrial Taipei.

May (Yang Kuei-me) is an unmarried real-estate agent on the verge of middle age. She spends long hours going through the motions of trying to sell an empty apartment in Taipei's wretched real-estate market. The film shows us her typical day in grueling detail as she climbs atop garbage cans to nail up signs; screams into a cellular phone while eating lunch; and diffidently points out the nebulous virtues of a property to a prospective buyer ("the air is nice here"). Tsai Ming-liang's assiduous attention to detail frequently yields

breathtaking, if not unsettling, results, as in an amazing sequence in which May attempts to kill a fly buzzing around her head. Few directors could get this much mileage out of a throwaway moment, but May is somehow made to register both cosmic annoyance and a kind of mindless indifference as she chases the insect through the room.

Of course, May's nights are different from her days. By moonlight she haunts the streets in search of pick-ups, a process the director records with keen awareness of human behavior. Ah-jung (Chen Chao-jung), a hustler type who

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Funny, you don't look...

'Too Jewish' art

by Roberto Friedman

Identity politics have taken center stage in contemporary art production in recent years as, under the rubric of multiculturalism, exhibitions have poked and prodded at the feminist, African-American, Native-American and lesbian and gay experiences, among others. Now the Jewish Museum San Francisco is home to "Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities," a show in which twenty-three artists explore their Jewish-American identity through their art.

Cynics might be excused for thinking that multiculturalism has gone about as far as it can fruitfully go. As one critic has sneered, "What's next? 'WASP Art'?"

Partly, such cynicism is warranted, for American Jews, as successfully assimilated into American culture as any group, have been full participants in the adventure we call modern art (think Rauschenberg, think Rothko). But, as the exhibition's title suggests, Jewish artists who have treated their ethnicity as the subject of their art run the risk of being marginalized. "Too Jewish?" has a role to play in a supposedly secular culture, in which compulsory Christmas carols and sub-surface anti-Semitism are

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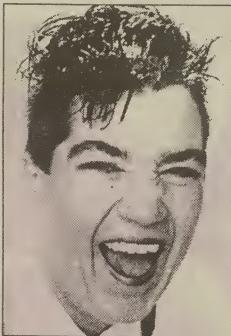


Triple Silver Yentl (My Elvis), by Deborah Kass, 1992

OUT THERE

by Snippy Delite

Funny, isn't that big gal who takes Goldie Hawn for a spin on the dance floor in *The First Wives Club* **Lea DeLaria**, so famous in these parts for accidentally channeling the punch lines of other comics' jokes? We almost didn't recognize her, what



Lea DeLaria

with the glam Hollywood makeover. In fact, had it not been for the greasy looks and that familiar truck-driver drone, we could have easily mistaken her for **Jack Klugman** in drag.

Tale of two homos

Yes, homosexuals are popping up everywhere these days on TV and in movies, albeit in strange ways. As a matter of fact, we were flipping around the tube just the other night and, lo and behold, there was **Lily Tomlin** on *Murphy Brown*. She's assumed the role of Miles Silverberg after the **Nobody** who occupied that role decided the show sucks and fled.

Anyway, Lily is a refreshing presence on this sinking barge of stale bromides, but we wonder: Will advertisers drop *Murphy Brown* given what the public knows about Tomlin's sexuality? It's doubtful. As long as Tomlin makes no definitive public statements about being a lesbian she's not likely to upset the Hollywood apple cart. She is safely ensconced in mystery, or closeted by any other name.

Did someone say closet? My, they're making them bigger and bigger these days. Some of them, we hear, are as big as reality, like **Ellen Degeneres'**. Last week's season opener of her show, *Ellen*, though not the liberation fest some had hoped for, seemed to hint liberally that a coming out party is in the works. But if it's not liberation for the real Ellen, who cares? Does Degeneres think that by forcing her surrogate Ellen to come out that she has somehow relieved herself of the need to do the same in real life? TV is not reality, babe.

Tyson's double revenge

Poor **Liz Taylor**, that nefarious, dark past just refuses to go away. Out There has just learned that Miss Fried Chicken has been ordered by a Manhattan court to pay actress **Cicely Tyson** \$607,000 for firing her in 1983 for taking a night off from Taylor's theatrical production of *The Corn Is Green*. Tyson said at the time that she needed the night off to attend a tribute to her then-husband, jazz trumpeter **Miles Davis**.

One would have thought that Tyson got her revenge in seeing Taylor's behemoth bomb on Broadway (it closed in less than two weeks). Guess revenge is not only sweet, but lucrative.

Unrealized potential

"Why does **Adam Sandler** always play gay guys ... even ones who act just a little gay?" asks a **15-year-old** interviewed for an *Entertainment Weekly* piece about the comedy *Bulletproof*.

Sandler certainly delivers a slew of faggy lines — he tells **Damon Wayans** (who plays an undercover cop chasing Sandler) "I'm falling in love with you all over again," and the two constantly trade faux homo barbs with each other. This, and

Wayans sticking a gun up Sandler's ass at a crucial moment, left the **guys and gals at GLAAD** branding the film as "one long overblown homophobic punchline."

But are our media watchdogs missing the point yet again? With tongue perhaps only half in cheek, *EW* reviewer **Lisa Schwarzbaum** suggests a different, more nuanced reading: "*Bulletproof*, in truth, a deeply romantic love story between two men who — all their tittery homophobic jokes to the contrary — adore each other with a passion When **Moses** (Sandler) looks at **Keats** (Wayans) there is such tenderness in his dim-witted face that I think a real opportunity has been missed: Universal should have marketed this formulaic drivel as the taboo love story it really is, and then watched its

stars run for cover."

So are we suggesting that you rush out and catch the flick? That's up to you. It really is dumber than dumb — and pretty violent, too — and buying into Schwarzbaum's analysis requires the same sort of mental contortions that were required to accept **Sharon Stone's** *Basic Instinct* character as empowering to women.



Sharon Stone

Stoned again

Speaking of Stone, Out There's roving correspondent **Daniel Mangin** had his picture taken with the nefarious actress at a chichi dinner (my how he's moved up in the world since he fled SF for NY) following a recent AmFAR benefit at Carnegie Hall. Unfortunately, those NY photos

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Open Studios begins October 5

Saturday, October 5 marks the opening of the 21st San Francisco Open Studios, in which the public is invited into artists' studios and homes over four weekends in October to view and purchase artwork where it is made, and to interact with artists and learn how they create. This year, Open Studios distinguishes itself from the past in that approximately 1/3 of the participating artists are opening their studios for the first time, guaranteeing a fresh take on the art scene. Equally noteworthy is the newly redesigned Artists' Directory, which features information on contributors and sample photos of their work. The Directory, now 200 pages, has been revamped to have life beyond the four weekends in October; it now functions as an index of local artists and a resource guide detailing Bay Area businesses that support the arts.

For the third consecutive year, the Open Studios store will be open at Embarcadero Center #2 (lobby level) through October 27. The public is invited to a reception honoring the 1996 participating artists, 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, October 3 at SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan Street. Admission is free. For more information, call 861-9838. ▼



Above: Photographer J.W. Diehl's "You Promised." Diehl's studio will be open Oct. 5-6 at: Hunter's Point Shipyard, Building 110, studio 210. Call 752-9842 for information.



Left: Image from photographer Judy Reed's "Skinny Dippin'" series. Reed's work will be on display during the first weekend of Open Studios, Oct. 5-6, at: Hunter's Point Shipyard, Building 101, studio 2107. Call 822-7299 for information.

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PHOTO: HOT HOUSE

THEATRE

On being gay

Dan Butler; Fortune and Men's Eyes

by Chad Jones

Dan Butler is one man alone on a stage, but he has all of gay history up there with him. In his energetic and heartfelt show *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me*, in town at the Bayfront Theatre as part of the Solo Mio Festival, Butler tells the story of being gay from as many points of view as he can possibly fit into 90 minutes.

Best known as *Frasier*'s Bob "Bulldog" Briscoe, Butler has written a show that allows the actor to share what he considers the best — and worst — aspects of being gay. Over the course of 15 scenes, Butler, a stocky, sexy performer, tackles gay life from the vantage point of an ardently straight ladykiller whose childhood buddy has just come out to him in a noisy bar; a love-struck romantic showing off the prize gymnast lying in bed beside him; an exuberant little boy who is unwittingly party to his best friend's erotic experiments; and a man named Dan whose mother (in a taped conversation) admits she won't tell her husband that his stepson is gay.

The actor then morphs into a bigoted ACT UP activist fed up with drug addicts, straights, blacks and dykes; Joey, a butch homo whose nelly boyfriend staves off bashers with brio and dignity; and a gay naysayer called "The Critic." As the show barrels toward its finale, Butler describes coming out to his father: "The only thing worse you could have told me," the older man says, "is you were dead." As the dumbstruck son, Butler struggles and fails to come up with a witty retort.

There is a lot of empty talk about pride in the gay community (made worse by all the enterprising capitalists who have learned how to market it), but Butler's show is a valiant and ultimately successful effort to forge character, humanity, and courage into an expression of pride. From his position as a sitcom celebrity, Butler has chosen to give something beyond high-profile Hollywood homosexuality.

Cornhole manifesto

While Butler triumphs in his expression of pride, the New Conservatory Theatre all but slaps it into solitary confinement. John Herbert's 1967 prison drama *Fortune and Men's Eyes* opens NCT's second gay pride season, though there is very little about this play or production to be proud of.

Director Arturo Catricala has chosen to play this jailhouse soaper straight, which is a giant misstep. Dialogue like "Feed your snickers to the chickens at jug-up" cries out for camp treatment, or knowing self-awareness at the very least. But Catricala asks his five actors to "make it real," which they do all right, only they make it real bad.

Herbert's play asks us to believe that a generic detention facility circa 1967 is a hotbed of homoerotic intrigue and doublepeak. There's a definite pecking order, and if a cox knows what's good for him, he'll play along with "the game" to avoid a "gang splash." Rocky (Jeffrey Gowan) is the big rooster on his block, or so

he thinks. He bunks with Queenie (Leon Goertzen), a peroxide blonde whose well-placed booty has made her some friends in high places, and a bookwormy simp known only as Mona (Philip Newby). An ulcer-suffering guard (Bruce Cronander) likes to stir things up, but he's too close to collecting his pension to get involved.

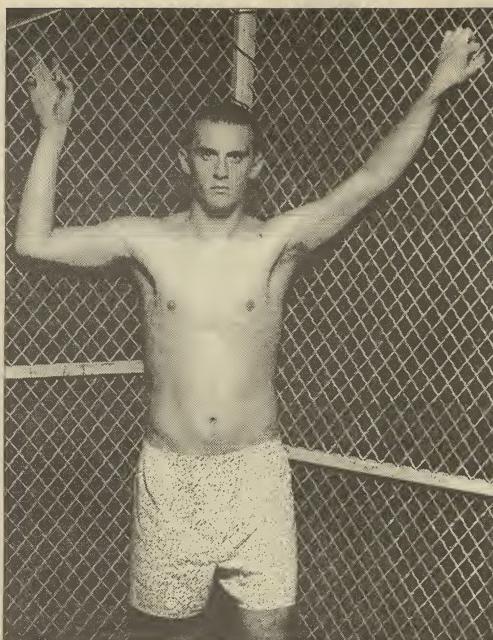
Added to this convict concoction is a tender young hayseed named Smith (Daniel Talbot) sounding too much like Forrest Gump, dubbed Smitty by his new roommates. Rocky takes to Smitty like white on rice, but Smitty ain't so dumb. He learns fast and soon topples Rocky from his roost and up-ends Queenie's royal posturing. By play's end, there is a new cock on this walk, a tough who has learned the hard way about "the backside of decency."

Fortune and Men's Eyes sounds like it could be a hoot, but this

production doesn't give one much reason to do so. The actors are sporting but wildly uneven in their attempts to wring heavy drama from pulp. In fact, several performances border on truly terrible.

These boys, who look like they are barely out of high school, seem about as manly as amateur porn stars on a makeshift prison set. Whatever messages there are in this play about homophobia, brutality and penal sodomy are lost. A better name for this production might be *Boy Scouts Cornholing in the Big House*. ▼

The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me continues at the Bayfront Theatre through Sept. 29. Call 392-4400 for information. *Fortune and Men's Eyes* continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through Oct. 26. Call 861-8972 for information.



Daniel Talbot as "Smitty" in *Fortune and Men's Eyes*.

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The Shaw must go on

Berkeley Rep's Heartbreak House

by Erin Blackwell

Berkeley Repertory Theatre's current production of *Heartbreak House* is a valiant attempt to stage an impossible play. Only the finest performances could begin to illuminate George Bernard Shaw's mystifying admixture of high romantic comedy, rumblingly self-conscious philosophizing, and ni-

hilistic absurdity.

Written in 1916, when German zeppelins regularly trolled the English skies blasting the countryside, *Heartbreak* was not produced until after the war. Shaw's image of England as a kind of territorial Titanic headed towards an Armageddon-style iceberg compounded of its own vanities is, unfortunately, unmatched by any purely dramatic action the characters can play out on an understandably human level.

For three and a half hours we gaze, clueless, as a sampling of spoiled upper-crust ladies and gents, plus one enterprising capitalist, idle away a lovely September day in the Sussex countryside. At this home of an ex-sea captain

who shares Lear's foolishness but lacks his desperate depths, people wander listlessly about flirting with each other, speaking in epigrams and claiming to have broken hearts. But they're all so brittle and bloodless that their having hearts at all is beyond an audience's willful suspension of disbelief.

Berkeley Rep's edifying program notes inform us that Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* was Shaw's direct inspiration. Anyone familiar with that masterpiece will recognize a similar End of the World ambience. But where Chekhov was content to observe and chuckle, Shaw seems to want to skewer and alarm. Lacking the Russian doctor's long view, based on a clinical intimacy with the vicissitudes of the human heart, Shaw ends up skewering himself on a high-minded but ultimately vacuous symbolism:

vacuous symbolism.

Staging such an ambitious play can't be easy. Director Sharon Ott, who is also the theater's artistic director, has chosen to set the play in something-like-1916-Sussex. The actors then go about their business, pretending to be more-or-less English and eccentric. The

problem with such a literal-minded attempt at reconstructing the play's real historic moment is that the company ends up exerting itself in re-creation rather than tackling the more pressing task of getting to the dark, mysterious heart of the play.

Act One was rough-going, as characters announced themselves and explained their itinerary with a heavy-handed thoroughness that made it sound as though there were coded messages in every line. No one looked at ease on the meticulous yet somehow fragmentary set by Kate Edmunds. As the performers settled into their roles and were given beautiful duets to play in Act Two, things looked up. We forgot about 1916 and Sussex and enjoyed the human drama.

Act Three reserved a new kind of trouble for us all. As the party took their places on the terrace with after-dinner drinks, waiting for the zeppelin's bombs to fall, the tenor of the language shifted, but the cast failed to rise to the occasion. They couldn't get it up for the End of the World. So, when the bomb finally did fall and killed the Capitalist and the Burglar, there was just a sort of empty "Oh, really?" — no irony, no shock, no unconscionable glee.

Despite these criticisms,



Ken Ruta and Geoff Hoyle in George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House*.

Ken Friedman

say something. ▼

Heartbreak House continues at Berkeley Rep through October 25. Call (510) 845-4700 for tickets and information.

Yankees no home run

by Chad Jones

at youth and the opportunity to take his last-place Washington Senators all the way to the World Series.

Dean Martin's erstwhile butt boy is comatose for most of the show, and when he does rouse himself from time to time, he mugs unmercifully. Some things never change. At best, Lewis is doing a wan impersonation of himself, one that would at least be convincing in the hands of a more robust comedian.

The real reason people should see this show, aside from the glorious score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, is Valerie Wright's sultry, star-making performance as Lola, the devil's temptress-for-hire. Following in the footsteps of Gwen Verdon, Broadway's original Lola, Wright makes the char-

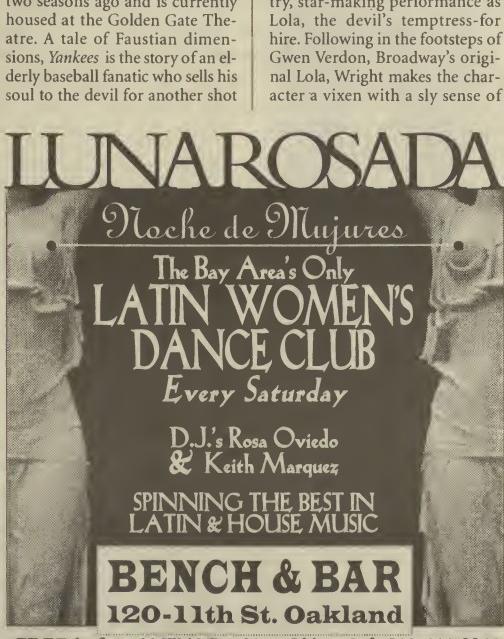
humor and a leg extension to kill for.

Though set in the sumptuous-fabulous '50s, this *Yankees* definitely has a contemporary feel. The baseball player/chorus boys are adorable, and there is nothing better than a musical number ("Heart") set in a men's locker room (this production even allows a little nudity!). Even though Lewis fouls out, this *Damn Yankees* is a grand slam. ▼

Damn Yankees continues at the Golden Gate Theatre through Oct. 13. Call 776-1999 for information.



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Jerry Lewis and Valerie Wright in
Damn Yankees.

DANCE

Going through the motions

Tharp! is less than the sum of its parts

by Wendell Ricketts

Veteran choreographer and modern-dance icon Twyla Tharp visited Zellerbach Hall last weekend with the world premiere of the three new pieces that make up *Tharp!*, the road show she plans to take on national and international tour over the next two years.

If the exclamation point after Tharp's name seems a tad precious, the program's three works, *Sweet Fields*, *66*, and *Heroes*, provided ample evidence that the show ought to have been entitled *Tharp®*.

Tharp disbanded her 23-year-old company in 1988 in order to pursue other endeavors, notably The White Oak Project (her collaboration with Mikhail Baryshnikov) and commissions for new works and revivals from American Ballet Theater, The Paris Opera Ballet, London's Royal Ballet, and other companies.

For *Tharp!*, however, the choreographer assembled a touring group of 14 members chosen from extensive nationwide auditions, a process that introduced two major problems into the project: The dancers are very young (and they look it), and they don't know Tharp technique (and they show it). In other words, *Tharp!* looks exactly like what it is: a pick-up company. The result is that *Sweet Fields*, *66*, and *Heroes* have a diluted, second-hand feeling to them—something like the pale depictions of George Balanchine's great works that keep showing up in San Francisco Ballet programs.

Let me hasten to say that the members of the *Tharp!* ensemble are fine dancers who will probably go on to be even finer dancers, but there is no escaping the nagging sense that what *Tharp!* offers is an evening of Tharp dances set on someone else's company. The individual movements are executed correctly; the dedication of the dancers is obvious. But the heart and soul of Tharp are missing in action. Gone are dancers like Sara Rudner and Shelley Washington, who devoted themselves to Tharp for years and by whose maturity (in dance-world terms) Tharp technique had become astonishing, even miraculous to

behold.

Sweet Dreams, the evening's opening work, is set to Shaker hymns, including new arrangements of traditional music as well as work by such composers as William Billings, the so-called "American Primitive" who was well-known in the second half of the 18th century, and others. Most of the songs are for a male-only or female-only a cappella chorale, reflecting the Shaker belief in segregation of the sexes, and Tharp divides her dancers up the same way.

For the most part, Tharp also restricts the ensemble to a reverential, even prayerful movement. Dancers repeatedly reach outward from the center of their bodies, gracefully unfolding arms in a gesture that leaves the palm up and open. But the phrase becomes as relentless as the music, whose tempo and texture vary only slightly; indeed, the monotonous lighting design—dim and dimmer—helps the 30-minute piece devolve into a visual and aural drone.

The evening's second work, *66*, displays Tharp's signature appetite for an impressive variety of musical styles—classical compositions, love songs by Frank Sinatra, original scores by David Byrne, and practically everything in between. She calls the sound collage for *66* "lounge and bachelor pad" music, which is as good a description as any. It's an amazing assemblage of Muzak, bossa nova, big band, and smarmy instrumentals played on everything from the harpsichord to the marimba—plus one vocal: a recording of Dean Martin singing "Ain't That A Kick in the Head?"

The best work of the evening, *66* shows off enough of the famous Tharp humor to make one nostalgic (dancers in two huge auto tires—one on toe and one in jazz flats—wander through the piece like the famous highway of the title). It also has terrific dancing, Shawn Mahoney, as a rickety old man in jeans and suspenders, throws away his cane and transforms himself into a dancin' fool with all the loose-limbed, "aw, shucks" flair of a Gena Kelly.

Tharp gives Julie Stahl and Andrew Robinson some pretty great duets, too, and their breakups and make-ups, which

are the through-line of *66*, show the brilliance and sexiness Tharp can bring to heterosexual partnering (in one section, Robinson lifts Stahl, winding her around his body, then cradles and throws her—all while positioned on his knees).

Tharp! ends with *Heroes*, set to a Philip Glass symphony inspired by the music of David Bowie and Brian Eno. One senses that Tharp was trying in *Heroes* to tap the same avalanche of movement and energy that characterize older pieces like *The Catherine Wheel* and *Fait Accompli*, but the attempt never gelled. One understands that *Heroes* is about conflict. Beyond that, the work is a little opaque.

Glass' score, however, is fascinating. It's a more melodic and harmonically interesting Glass than we are used to hearing—even if he does throw in one of his stale tricks, an ear-splitting, clangorous crescendo, a signal to anyone whose attention has wandered that the end of the composition is near.

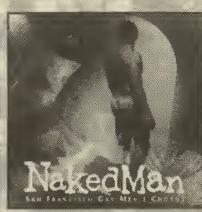
Oddly, it isn't until those final moments that Tharp seems to notice the score (she closes *Heroes* with an equally abrupt tableau). Otherwise, the music and the movement wander through *Heroes* like two lanes of the same highway. With Tharp at the wheel, one hoped for much more. ▼



Twyla Tharp's *66*.

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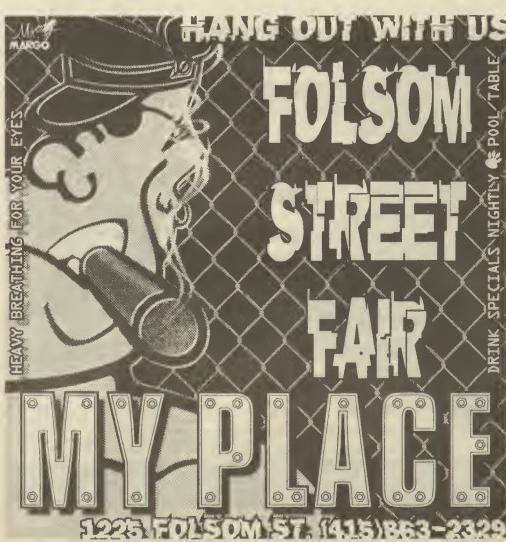
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Endangered species?

by John Blanco

The Drag Queens of New York by Julian Fleisher; Riverhead Books, \$13

Audubon had been queer and living in the late 20th century instead of the early 19th, he might have written a book like *The Drag Queens of New York*. Subtitled *An Illustrated Field Guide*, this work by Julian Fleisher catalogs 28 key players in the New York drag world, providing photos, interviews and such pertinent vital stats as whether or not they tuck.

Will the queens profiled in this book be offended by talk of their "habitat" (clubs, theaters) and "plumage"? Some might, but Fleisher clearly means no disrespect with the jokey bird analogies and even apologizes for the book's central conceit near the begin-

ning: "There is a point at which ornithological similes no longer fly. The humanity of these stories is not meant to be undercut by one writer's particular perspective or overweening desire to extend a metaphor."

The Drag Queens of New York, which is split evenly between the catalog of queens and Fleisher's commentary on the past, present and future of New York drag, is an entertaining little read. Fleisher's writing is consistently smart and funny, filled with both thoughtful analysis and great one-liners, for instance: "Irony without glamour is dull and unsexy, while glamour without irony is the Rose Bowl."

Parade."

But, you might ask, why just New York? Why not broaden the discussion to include drag in other cities? The answer is that Fleisher is an unapologetic East Coast supremacist when it comes to drag. "There are plenty of

queens in San Francisco and LA," he concedes, "but the New York scene had already been in full swing by the time either of those questionable fault lines had even been settled. Drag in New York is drag at its best; a centuries old tradition, with its own iconography, its own vernacular and its own sacred sights."

As proof Fleisher offers up a historical overview of New York drag, beginning with the story of Edward Hyde, governor of New York in the 1700s and namesake of Hyde Park, who was a notorious crossdresser. Fleisher's brief history mainly concentrates on our own century, touching on the heyday of drag nightspots like the 82 Club and the Jewel Box Review in the '50s and '60s, as well as The Pyramid and the Boy Bar in more recent years. Pioneer performers are also given their due, from the triple threat of the late '60s and early '70s, Jackie Curtis, Candy Darling and Holly Woodlawn, to the folk-damaged John Kelly in the '80s.



Author Julian Fleisher

Rick Gerharter

ized, then what will that subversive form subvert next?"

Fleisher may ponder the shape of drag's future, but he doesn't for a minute doubt that drag will have one. "When the next star comes up from the minors, s/he will likely invent an entirely new

form of entertainment or reconfigure or combine existing ones with such vigorous originality that it appears new," he asserts. If any queens can maintain drag's edginess and creativity into the new millennium, Fleisher is confident that New-York queens can. ▼



The Mistress Formika, Mona Foot, and Candis Cayne.

Michael Britton

Declaration of independence

by Deborah Peifer

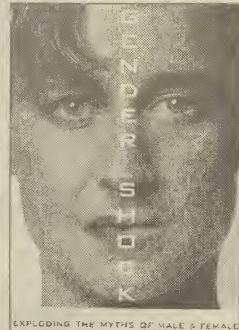
Gender Shock: Exploding the Myths of Male and Female by Phyllis Burke; Anchor, \$23.95

The first defining moment in a human being's life," says Phyllis Burke in *Gender Shock*, "occurs in the birth room, and in medical terminology it is called 'the announcement.' Not concerned with health, or weight, or fingers and toes, the announcement consists solely of the sex of the infant's body. From the moment of birth, the baby is handled in a way considered appropriate to the body's sex. Appropriate colors are chosen, appropriate toys are selected, appropriate religious and social rituals are performed." Thus begins the child's induction into the repressive and soul-destroying world of bipolar gender identity. You are defined as a boy or a girl, and from then on, your behavior is rigidly consigned to one of only two choices.

What if your natural bent is, well, bent? What if you have a penis and enjoy cooking? What if you have a vagina and like rough and tumble play? Not to worry. An army of psychiatrists, provided with an approved diagnosis, Gender Identity Disorder in Children (GIDC), will descend on you and your family. Using drugs, behavior modification, electroshock and aversion therapy, they will straighten you right out.

Don't be at all confused about this. These assaults on the gender independent are taking place right now, and the hidden agenda (hidden because since 1973, homosexuality has not been listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)*) is to eradicate queers. Thanks to GIDC, "there were still diagnoses that could be used to punish people for things that could be perceived as relating to sexual orientation."

Consider the case studies author Burke reports. Jamie, who at age six (yes, six) was dropped off by his parents (whom he never saw again) at a psychiatric hospital, stayed there for the next 20 years, until he escaped, numbed by anti-psychotic drugs and subjected to more than 600 electroshock "treatments." His illness: he wasn't appropriately butch



EXPLORING THE MYTHS OF MALE & FEMALE

enough.

Becky, at age seven, was "diagnosed as having 'female sexual identity disturbance' which manifested as 'deviant gender behavior.'" Translation: Becky liked basketball and climbing and refused to wear dresses. The diagnosing doctor, George Rekers, planned to use taxpayer dollars, provided by the National Institute of Mental Health, to demonstrate that he could "produce a reversal of pronounced cross-gender identity to a normal female sexual identity." [Burke comments] That a seven-year-old girl can be described as having a sexual identity, normal or otherwise, and that the United States Government funded this experiment, and many others like it, is alarming."

Rekers succeeded in unbutching the child, and by age 8 1/2, according to the doctor's report, "Becky was enamored with the male examiner and wanted to give him her phone number so that he could call her every night and every day..." Dr. Rekers considered her cured because her relationship with an adult man was consuming, obsessive, even sexualized."

Revolutionary vision

Although horror stories like these abound in *Gender Shock*, the book is considerably more than a mere collection of case studies. Burke is proposing nothing less than a revolution in the ways in which we see and define ourselves. Gender is nothing more than a fancy word for behavior, and the insistence of the patriarchy on a bipolar gender system serves to regulate behavior in op-

page 53 ▶

Phyllis Burke on Gender Shock Suffer the children

by Deborah Peifer

My brief conversation with Phyllis Burke about her new book, *Gender Shock*, starts with good news: "The Human Rights Commission just passed a resolution," Burke explains, "asking the APA (American Psychiatry Association) to stop diagnosing Gender Identity Disorder in Children (GIDC) and to stop government funding of coercive treatment of GIDC."

Gender Identity Disorder—that's when girls like to play sports or boys don't. Yes, it's true. Our tax dollars are being used to fund this damaging assault on children's behavior. Burke is amazed, and gratified, by the "strong response of people who have read *Gender Shock*. I get letters from people telling me they feel better about themselves having read the book. They know they're not alone, they're not the only person in the world to feel like they don't fit in a prescribed gender role."

Burke's had some difficulty herself living in the post *Gender Shock* world. "I feel like people are walking around in a mass hallucination. They are so locked into the male/female thing. Remember in the early women's movement when we talked about click moments? [A click moment is a sudden revelation of sexism, hitherto unnoticed because it is so pervasive. The experience was likened to hearing a click in your head, as when you saw for the first time that the boys in your class were called on to the exclusion of the girls who also had their hands raised.] Well, I have to think that clicks are starting around the issues of gender. Not everyone yet, but more people every day."

That abusive gender "treatments" continue to this day infuriates Burke. "The United States government has no business spending tax dollars to subsidize child abuse. Besides, if we take away research dollars [from psychiatrists], their minds will



Peter Schainker

Author Phyllis Burke

follow right along." Elimination of funding is key, Burke believes, "because a grant from a national organization gives legitimacy to the work."

Burke is hard at work "on a couple of novels right now that use the information I learned during my research for *Gender Shock*, but in a more playful way. I hope that will enable me to reach more people with this information." Burke has great hope that queers of all kinds will lead the fight for gender independence because "we love looking at the world in unexpected ways." ▼



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A fabulous singer – and lesbian

by Deborah Peifer

Ferron—still riot (Warner Bros.)

The fact that my nearest neighbor is moving, to Boston no less, has, I am certain, nothing whatever to do with the fact that I have been playing Ferron's new CD non-stop for the past two weeks.

Is there a singer or songwriter today who speaks more poetically or accurately about the varieties of the lesbian experience than Ferron? Her latest, *still riot*, is a delight. The song "alice says yes" tells the story of new love with wit and insight. Is there anyone newly in love who hasn't done this: "I call up my old friends to tell them/Any excuse to say your name"? Ferron is not only the poet of new love, but specifically of lesbian love, as in "When you gave me a brown care bear/I gave you a miniature moving van."

Ferron looks at past loves as well, with the wry humor of a woman who knows her communities. In "dazzle the beast," she sings of being at the cape at Christmas, "a tag-a-long friend," when her ex arrives at the party with her new lover. "I try to think of what I'm wearing/hoping none of it's yours." Ferron's tale of Sadie, who works at a restaurant called Anything You Want, and

her confusion about the lady who works the graveyard shift, is very funny. It also serves to remind us that "It's so amazing what you don't find out when you're dancing."

Ferron's writing is deeply personal, but I found myself thinking that the person she is writing about is me. Most lesbians, I suspect, can find themselves in Ferron's musings on lesbiana. She reminds us of the feelings we may have forgotten, of new love and lost love. Ferron challenges her listeners to claim our power, and to live our lives fully. She does all that with superb musicality.

Lesbian Chic continues apace. *still riot*, distributed by Warner Bros., arrived with an explanatory essay by NPR's Tom Manoff. In three pages praising Ferron past and present, he does not once mention the "L" word. He does say "we expect true artists to write about what they experience and who they are. But a love song is a love song. A great song is a great song. ... Categories are prisons. Break out." All of which I take to mean that Ferron has transcended being merely a lesbian songwriter. The problem with that, of course, is that without the lesbian label, Ferron becomes a straight woman, her lesbian identity erased in a specious claim to universality.

To eliminate the lesbian from



Victoria Pearson

Lesbian singer/songwriter Ferron.

these songs is to impoverish their meaning, reduce their complexity. I don't doubt that non-lesbians can enjoy Ferron, but I would hope that at least a part of their enjoyment is in learning about the ways in which lesbians cele-

brate their lives. I suspect that Warner is trying to protect its investment by making a small contribution to lesbian invisibility. Fortunately, Ferron's lesbianism is triumphantly present in her music. Take that Warner Bros. ▼

Aging gracefully

by Deborah Peifer

Grow Old Along with Me — The Best Is Yet to Be edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz; Papier-Mache, \$12

Time for Love: Assisted Living Viewed by One of the Very Old by Janet Carnross Chandler; Papier-Mache, \$9

In 1987, Sandra Haldeman Martz edited an anthology of women's writing, both prose and poetry, about aging. The self-published book, *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*, became a publishing phenomenon. Since its initial printing of 3,000 copies, *Purple* has sold more than 1.3 million copies and Papier-Mache, founded by Martz in 1984, has become the publisher of record for the experiences, hopes and fears of an aging population.

Martz's newest anthology, *Grow Old Along with Me — The Best Is Yet to Be* (the line is by Robert Browning) is her most ambitious yet. Selecting from more than 7,000 pieces, submitted by women and men, Martz has compiled a collection that proves the adage, "old age is not for sissies." In her introduction, Martz explains that "half of the writers [in *Purple*] were in their mid-forties or younger. They painted tender word pictures of mothers and grandmothers ... They, and I, viewed aging earnestly, poignantly, tenderly — and with a certain distance."

There is no poetic distance in *Grow Old*. The writers are older, and they know about age spots and arthritis, dignity, and the lack of it. Dianna Henning's "Can Opener" is a spare and shocking

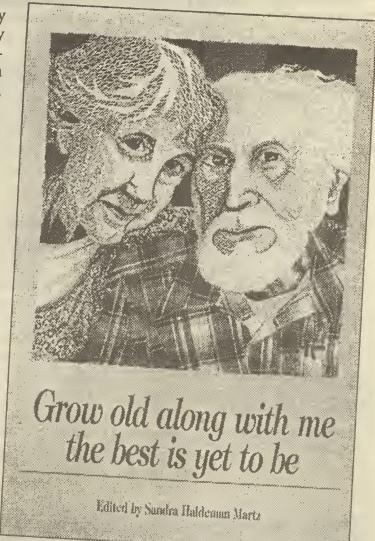
look at the elderly poor. If Nancy Robertson's "Choices" doesn't make you call your mother, you have no heart.

The anthology is not unrelentingly dark. Barbara Crooker's "Nearing Menopause, I Run into Elvis at Shoprite" is sexy, funny, and charged with life. John Laue's "The Fallout Fantasy" challenges the notion that old means finished.

As the boomer generation ages, we (yes, we) are coming face to face with the fact of mortality, and the fear, I suspect, that the young will treat us with the same disdain we showed the old years ago when we refused to trust anyone over 30. You might think of *Grow Old Along with Me* as a textbook for the coming adventures.

Time for Love is Janet Carnross Chandler's last book of poetry, covering the time from her move into a skilled nursing facility to her death in 1995. Earlier collections include *Flight of the Wild Goose* and *Why Flowers Bloom* (both published by Papier-Mache). A former social worker, Chandler brings a professional eye to the myriad indignities of very old age, but there is also an amazing sense of wonder at the possibilities. Her poetry is spare and filled with life.

In "New Regulations," Carnross observes a change in policy



*Grow old along with me
the best is yet to be*

Edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz

as nurses and others start to knock on doors before entering the room: "New regulations," explained / the aide. 'The people / who have been evaluating our program / want us to make sure our patients / die with dignity.' It occurred to me some of us / might not think dying was what / we were here for." Carnross certainly is in for more than dying; her poems celebrate new friendship and romance. Carnross insists, and rightly, that the time for love is now. ▼

Note: *Purple* and *If I Had My Life to Live Over I Would Pick More Daisies* are now available in large type editions.

"★★★★★!"
David Patrick Stearns, USA Today

VERY FUNNY, VERY MOVING!
Ben Brantley, New York Times

HILARIOUS AND UPLIFTING!
The New Yorker

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Jan Stuart, Newsday

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Michael Feingold, Village Voice

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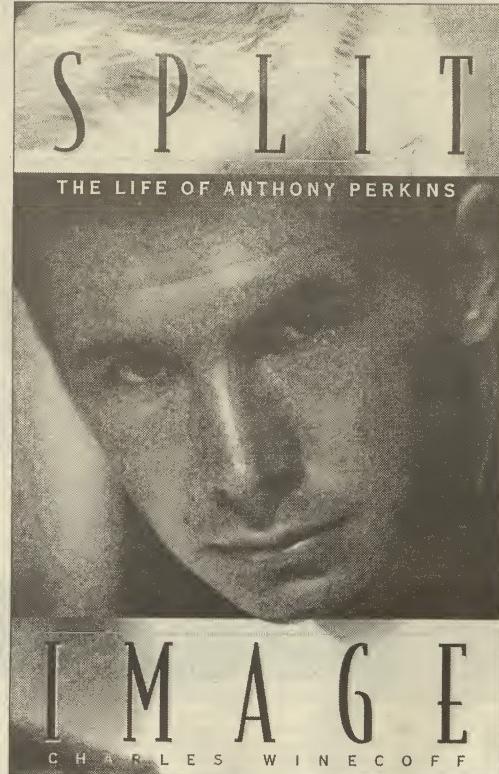
Split Image: The Life of Anthony Perkins by Charles Winecoff; Dutton, \$24.95

"Face it gang," Tony would tell his friends, "I am Norman Bates."

Although Tony Perkins starred in dozens of films and plays during a career that spanned four decades, it was as Norman Bates, the mother-dominated murderer in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*, that Perkins' career reached its apotheosis. In the film, his persona as the perpetual adolescent was carried to its twisted extreme, and remained etched into the public's perception of him for the rest of his life.

As sympathetically detailed by author Charles Winecoff in a new biography, the actor's death in 1992 at age 60 from AIDS, ended a life in which Perkins' efforts to conceal his homosexuality, and to come to terms with it himself, were major forces from adolescence onward. As Winecoff makes clear, Perkins went through all manner of Hollywood contortions to convince the public he was straight. Though some of these machinations were humorous — for instance, double-dating with Tab Hunter, with whom Perkins later had an intimate fling — author Winecoff isn't in it for laughs; he's interested in showing how a life of repression ultimately has tragic consequences.

Understanding Perkins means understanding his past. As the only child of Osgood Perkins, a remote and resentful father who died at the peak of a hugely successful career as a stage and screen actor, Perkins, then five years old, was raised by a watchful, anxious, possessive and critical mother who sent him to boarding school because "he lacked discipline and regimentation." A gawky boy who was neither a jock nor a joiner, Perkins became the object of hostility and derision. Scared and alone, he responded as he would throughout



Going straight, having AIDS

How Perkins managed to hide his homosexuality from the public is painfully recounted in *Split Image*, which is enriched by the understanding gay author Winecoff brings to the subject. Though Perkins was involved for many years with live-in lover Grover Dale, a well-known dancer and choreographer, in 1970 Perkins made an all-out effort to go straight. His efforts began to pay off when, in 1973, the then 41-year-old actor married Berry Berenson, a rabid and determined fan 16 years his ju-

straight, with notables such as Roddy MacDowell, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Benjamin, and Melina Mercouri are explored at length in *Split Image*, creating a picture of a man who, though he could often be cruel to friends and associates, could also inspire great loyalty and affection in others. Especially affecting is Winecoff's account of Perkins' relationship with Orson Welles, who directed Perkins in *The Trial*. Clearly, this was a relationship of two great "outsiders" marked by a mutual respect based in understanding.

Shortly before he died, his illness with AIDS having been revealed by a supermarket tabloid, Perkins dictated a statement to his sons, to be released after his death, which read:

"I chose not to go public because, to misquote *Casablanca*, 'I'm not much at being noble, but it doesn't take much to see that the problems of one old actor don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world.'

There are many who believe this disease is God's vengeance but I believe it was sent to teach people how to love and understand and have compassion for each other. I have learned more about love, selflessness, and human understanding from the people I have met in this great adventure in the world of AIDS than I ever did in the cut-throat, competitive world in which I spent my life."

Songwriter David Friedman has said that "coming out was like putting down a 30-pound bowling ball I'd been carrying around all my life." Perkins seems never to have experienced that relief, and if ever there was an excruciating portrait of one public man's struggle with living truthfully in his life, *Split Image* is it. This book leaves one hoping that Perkins found more peace in his life than mere facts would imply. ▶

"He simply didn't have the resilience to face the every day limitations of prep school life. Where others would bend, Tony would harden."

much of his life, by resorting to a stony coldness to become inscrutable. One of his few friends from that period recalls, "He simply didn't have the resilience to face the every day limitations of prep school life. Where others would bend, Tony would harden."

An indifferent and unfocused student, it was apparent early on that the stage was one place where Tony could fit in, and, however remotely, connect and compete with the memory of his actor father. His first break in Hollywood came in 1952, with a supporting role in *The Actress*, a small budget film directed by closeted homosexual George Cukor and starring Jean Simmons and Spencer Tracy. Perkins' role of the awkward suitor had elements that foreshadowed variations of the nervous man that would remain a consistent motif throughout his career.

rior. The wedding came only ten days after Grover Dale married actress Anita Morris.

For a period of time after both couples were married, Dale and Morris continued to live in the basement of Perkins' Chelsea townhouse, and the friendship of the two men apparently survived the change in their relationship. Perkins and Berenson had two sons together, and their marriage continued uninterrupted until the actor's death.

Although Perkins' entire career as an actor has been overshadowed by his appearance in Hitchcock's masterpiece, he did enjoy triumphs on stage and screen after 1960. In fact, he continued working until near the end of his life, albeit in films that at times parodied *Psycho*. There were even two sequels to that film, one of which he directed.

His friendships, both gay and

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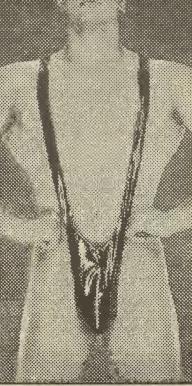
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Diversity within the ranks

Chatting with Kim and Yvette of local rock sensation Stone Fox

by Adrian Roberts

It says something about the burgeoning notoriety of local rock heroes Stone Fox that I had to call a New York publicist in order to secure an interview with them. Beginning as little more than a joke back in 1989, Stone Fox soon found itself a fixture in the local music scene, attracting the attention of Linda Perry, formerly of 4 Non-Blondes fame. In 1993, around the same time the band released *Burnt*, its debut album, Perry took the band under her wing, eventually signing them to her newly formed independent label, Rockstar Records, which just released their self-titled second album.

With a recent successful stint in LA under their belts, and an upcoming East Coast tour this fall, it's only a matter of time before

fore the world discovers Stone Fox.

A few months ago, I sat down with the band's two lesbian guitarists, Kim and Yvette, to talk about where they'd been and how they'd gotten there. My first question was also the most obvious: How does a great band begin as a joke?

Yvette: Basically, we wanted to start a band so that we could do "Dead End Justice," a song off the first Runaways record. It's this epic rock tale in three parts, about these girls who get arrested and go to juvenile detention.

Kim: Then they break out and form a rock-and-roll band! It's really great!

Y: That was the spirit [that started] Stone Fox. I mean, except for Janis, none of us had ever been in

a band before. It was just a big mess! We wore bad outfits and wrote bad songs and it was really fun!

K: Then we broke up. We were together all of six months.

Y: We didn't know it was a band, so it was like, "Okay, joke's over!"

K: Then we had a two year break.

played several queer band showcases. Do you consider yourselves part of SF's queer rock scene?

Y: We don't identify ourselves as a queer band, although we are queer-identified. Does that make sense?

K: We don't push the homo envelope. But we definitely support it and we definitely relate. Although

much as we do with Tribe 8. We all have such different tastes, especially musically.

A: Well, that certainly shows on the new record, which seems to have a lot more slow songs, especially compared to *Burnt*. Was there ever any conflict within the band about the direction the music should take? I mean, there's that short, between-song,



San Francisco's best-dressed band, Stone Fox: Brent, Yvette, Kim, Jorge, and Janis.

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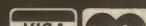
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Y: And then we said, "Let's have a reunion show!" And it was like, "Oh! This is kinda nice!" And we stuck with it.

Adrian: So how did Linda Perry get involved with Stone Fox?

Y: She was a big fan. She liked us from the beginning when we used to play Nighthawk and Female Trouble. And that's how it kinda started. She gave us suggestions and helped with our song arrangements. It was really nice for us to be able to work with her in that way.

A: Over the years, Stone Fox has

at the same time, we're really diverse within the band. I mean, there's a guy in the band, so it's not this "all-girl" thing. And we're not "all-queer." There are two dykes and a bisexual person, but there's also one straight guy and one straight girl.

Y: (Referring to lead singer Jorge.) Yeah, but she's a big drag queen! We have more straight friends than she does!

K: Yeah, it's kinda hard with that kind of diversity within the band to say that we're *this* kind of band or *that* kind of band. We identify with straight boy rock bands as

rehearsal-room outtake on the CD where Jorge is furiously screaming at someone.

K: Yeah, that was me and her fighting. But that was a long time ago. We all had to learn how to deal with each other. We don't yell at each other so much anymore, because it's really a non-constructive way of dealing with things. But it *does* happen. I mean, we all still love each other and we get along really well.

A: One of the things that has consistently set Stone Fox apart from the crowd has been your unapolo-

page 51 ►

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MUSIC

Native son

Russian baritone Sergei Leiferkus

by Stephanie von Buchau

Hyperbole has a nasty way of biting a critic in the behind. A few weeks ago I called Sergei Leiferkus "the sexiest baritone in opera," and until near the end of the first half of his recital Sunday at UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall, I thought I had really made a mistake.

A few visceral high notes aside, the 50-year-old Russian singer was behaving like a "Three Tenors" wannabe, belting arias by Bizet, Thomas and Giordano at full volume, with few of the vocal seductive qualities that first grabbed my attention when Leiferkus sang in *Boris Godunov* (as the devilishly beguiling Jesuit Rangoni) and *Fiery Angel* (as Ruprecht, the stud who thinks with his gonads) for the San Francisco Opera.

True, Wagner's "O, du mein holder Abendstern" (from *Tannhäuser*) was finessed with the suavest of legatos. Leiferkus, like his Russian colleagues Olga Borodina and Dmitri Hvorostovsky, has a perfectly equalized scale (no register breaks) and an endless stream of breath on which to float his mordant Slavic tone.

Finally, after mauing two romances by Schumann and Brahms, Leiferkus arrived at Schubert's "Erlkönig" and the imaginative, sensitive singer I have come to love in the title role of SF Opera's *Prince Igor* was back. "Erlkönig" is a Gothic spook story about a man carrying his child on a wild ride to escape death. It employs three voices, and Leiferkus, an actor's actor, nailed every one of them. He even transformed his handsome face into a scary, supernatural mask when impersonating the deadly Erlkönig.

The second half of the recital, accompanied by the blunt young pianist Eteri Andjaparidze, was all Russian and all glorious. No one wants to typecast a singer as talented as Leiferkus, but there is no denying that he is more communicative in his native language. Rachmaninoff songs included "Letter to Konstantin Stanislavsky," a conversational gem sung with grave humor.

Eugene Onegin's self-centered rebuke to the impetuous Tatiana was delivered with such masculine grace that if I'd been Tatiana, I would have kept asking the guy to marry me until he said yes. Among the encores, Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball" was sung in a ravishing half voice (*mezzo voce*).

Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death* were the concert's climax. In "Lullaby," Death comes to take a sick child, singing the gentle refrain, "Bayuuushki, bayu." Then he promises a young woman dying of fever a last ecstatic embrace; the subtle eroticism in Leiferkus' voice during this "Serenade" made me decide that my original hyperbole was inadequate.

In "Trepak" (a Russian dance), Death helps an old drunkard find warmth and oblivion under a snowbank. In the chilling final song, "The Field Marshall," a skeletal general riding a white horse triumphantly circles the field of battle, vowing that the dead will never rise again. The singer, his magnificent baritone in full cry, sent shivers of pleasure and fear through his listeners. ▼



Baritone Sergei Leiferkus.

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Vive L'Amour

▲ Arts cover

sells boutique knock-off fashions on the street, is the object of her lust. After a lengthy, silent, unacknowledged "courtship," the two end up sleeping together in an apartment she is trying to sell. But May is in a continuous state of distraction — she refuses to let Ah-jung kiss her, and after sex, she hastily departs.

Meanwhile, Hsiao-kang (Lee Kang-sheng), a young gay man who sells columbariums for a living, begins sneaking into the same apartment after he steals a key that May has accidentally left in the door. But Hsiao-kang visits the empty space for vastly different reasons than May. There, he enacts strange rituals that include dressing up in drag (complete with feather boa) and doing cartwheels through the hall, washing his clothes in a Jacuzzi, and attempting suicide. The film's themes of alienation and absurdity are mostly manifest in Hsiao-kang, particularly a scene in which he sensuously caresses and kisses a melon as if it were a surrogate lover, and then, after cutting finger holes in the fruit, throws it like a bowling ball down the hallway. This scene is typical of *Vive L'Amour*, in which seemingly average people exhibit increasingly strange behavior for no apparent reason.

The characters in this film have no outside attachments, families or friends, and in the case of May and Ah-jung, not even a discernible interior life. Even Hsiao-kang's office seems off-kilter, especially in a scene where his coworkers play a preposterous game



Chen Chao-Jung and Yang Kuei-Mei in Tsai Ming-Liang's *Vive L'Amour*.

on the floor. Conversely, seemingly insignificant events become earth-shattering in these cramped lives, like May's fly-swatting scene, which recalls Ionesco in its elaborate treatment. The film's empty interiors are the perfect stage for these disturbing events, for the spaces resonate with the limitations of the people who wander aimlessly in and out of them. For May, the apartment, which remains unsold and empty, is emblematic of her failure to find someone with whom to relate. For Ah-jung, it's merely a crash pad for casual fucking, while for Hsiao-kang the barren highrise is a psychic zone that lets him work out suppressed elements of his personality. The transformative power of an empty room is shown when, kissing the sleeping Ah-jung, he begins to look outside himself. ▼

Vive L'Amour isolates for the small, telling details in large events. Hsiao-kang's attempted suicide early in the film is treated obliquely; it takes us a minute to realize what is going on, though it becomes obvious when drops of blood from his wrist form a puddle on the floor. Conversely, seemingly insignificant events become earth-shattering in these cramped lives, like May's fly-swatting scene, which recalls Ionesco in its elaborate treatment. The film's empty interiors are the perfect stage for these disturbing events, for the spaces resonate with the limitations of the people who wander aimlessly in and out of them. For May, the apartment, which remains unsold and empty, is emblematic of her failure to find someone with whom to relate. For Ah-jung, it's merely a crash pad for casual fucking, while for Hsiao-kang the barren highrise is a psychic zone that lets him work out suppressed elements of his personality. The transformative power of an empty room is shown when, kissing the sleeping Ah-jung, he begins to look outside himself. ▼

Vive L'Amour runs Sept. 27-Oct. 1 at the Castro Theatre.

Brothers from another planet

by Gary Morris

Brother of Sleep takes place in Eschberg, a squalid, isolated Alpine village where the peasant population appears to be largely insane due to excessive overeating — woops, I meant to say inbreeding. The weather here is not too good. The town, a few shacks on a mountainside, seems to be cursed with eternal rain, which makes for eternal mud and lots of mudbaths. Into this muddy mess a musical prodigy appears. Elias Alder (Andre Eisermann) is the bastard son of the local horny priest, and in spite of the dubiousness of a caste system amongst this pack of losers, Elias is scorned by his peers and beaten by his parents, who think he's the result of "cold devil sperm."

In a scene that chicken hawks will forever treasure, 13-year-old Elias lies naked on a rock above a river, the camera swooping over him in a grandiose visualization of the power of genius. As an adult, Elias' only friends are a brother and sister, gorgeous hunk Peter (Ben Becker) and boringly beautiful Elsbeth (Dana Vavrova), who end up being rivals for his love. When the schoolmaster dies and Elias becomes the town organist, he finally gets to shine with hypnotically brilliant concertos that the otherwise brainless populace somehow understands and embraces. It's all downhill from there.

Director Joseph Vilsmaier dresses up this trite tale in operat-



Ben Becker in *Brother of Sleep*.

ic drag, with swirling camera movements, gritty close-ups, and endless tableaux of rain, filth, and kids with gigantic heads. The strongest dramatic element — Peter's desperate love for Elias and his willingness to do anything to realize it — is somehow lost in the muddy mise-en-scene and fancy organ-pumping. But sexy, butch Peter is a cinematic rarity worth noting: a naive gay man. Still, he shows signs of incipient queen-dom in his plea to Elias to run away (elope, really) with him: "We'll go to the French part of Switzerland, eat with silver forks and drink from cut glass." ▼

Brother of Sleep opens Sept. 27 at the Lumiere in San Francisco and the Act One/Two in Berkeley.

FILM

First Wives: shtickfest

by John Blanco

P roving once again that Hollywood can't make a movie featuring actresses over 50 in which age isn't the central issue, *The First Wives Club* has Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler playing wealthy, middle-aged women who have all been recently dumped by their husbands for younger mistresses. Galvanized by these actions, the three women decide to join forces (thus the club of the film's title) to concoct a scheme that will bleed their exes dry. Basically a protracted revenge fantasy, the Hugh Wilson-directed film is a sour little comedy that offers up only the occasionally funny bitchy-queen quip.

Keaton is surprisingly shrill in her role as Waspish Annie, and Bette Midler sticks to familiar shtick as Jewish mama Brenda, which leaves the movie's best moments to Hawn, who isn't afraid to do the ridiculous or unexpected as Elise, a has-been actress who has become addicted to alcohol and collagen. (The movie is almost worth seeing just for her

Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn, and Bette Midler in *The First Wives Club*.

drunken bump and grind with Lea DeLaria in a dyke bar scene.) But too often the film simply resorts to making Hawn — as well as Keaton and Midler — the butt of endless jokes about fat, wrinkles, and adult diapers. At the end of *The First Wives Club*, you aren't

angry at the husbands for how they have treated their wives, you're angry at the movie for how it has treated these actresses. ▼

The First Wives Club is at the Regency I, II and elsewhere.

Stone Fox

◀ page 48

getic "rock star" looks. Where does the band's impeccable fashion sense come from?

K: From Jorge! She used to order us to dress up! Now, she doesn't care as much. But for me, it was hard, because I always dressed pretty down-to-earth, and she'd get mad at me!

Y: But when we first started, I think we had to rely heavily on our outfits and not on the music! But now it's like, whatever!

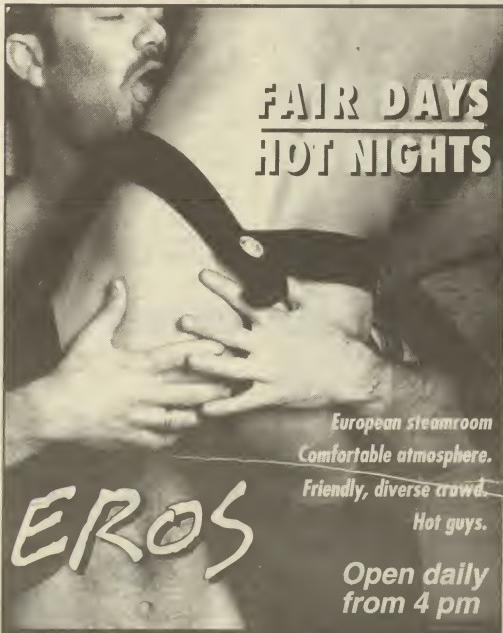
A: Where do you hope to be in a year?

Y and K: The Cow Palace! (laughing)

Y: If we ever got to the point where we were playing the Cow Palace, I would still want to play smaller clubs. It's that intimacy thing.

K: Part of my little girl dreams of being a rich and famous rock star is to see us play there. But by the same token, I'd like to just be able to make a living from doing what we love to do. We'd rather be self-sufficient and play smaller venues for ten years, then play coliseums for three. Consistency and longevity are what we're looking for. ▼

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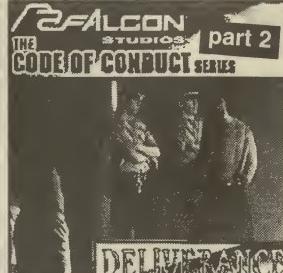
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Monk, Ives light up symphony program

by Philip Campbell

Two weeks into their second season together, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony still appear happily married. Given what we know about this perfect blending of talents, that is no surprise. What is surprising is how the first two programs of the season, which yielded wildly opposing results, have provided regulars with a bird's-eye view of what this orchestra can and cannot do.

Two weeks ago, pianist Leon Fleisher visited Davies Hall to perform Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1. Fleisher was at the peak of his pianistic powers in the '60s when the unthinkable happened — repetitive stress syndrome made it impossible for him to play with his right hand. Fortunately, there is a large repertoire for the left hand and he has managed to stay active for the last 30 years despite his condition.

Now, Fleisher has found a way around his ailment (not a cure), and he is once again giving public performances. That's the good news; the bad news is what he did with Brahms' Piano Concerto. The pianist was a disappointment, plain and simple. He hard-



Meredith Monk

cally adventurous elements. Even the most conservative listeners could find something on this program to enjoy.

I never cease to be amazed at the fear and loathing audiences display towards the genius of Charles Ives, but if anyone can make this thorny music palatable, it's Michael Tilson Thomas. And that is precisely what he did with Ives' sprawling *Holidays Symphony*, which consists of four separate movements linked by recurring themes and motifs culled from America's musical past. Vance George's San Francisco Symphony Chorus provided the final transcendent touches of this stunning work.

Last week's performance was an all-choral affair. Some works were performed with the orchestra, others without. That may sound confusing on paper, but it proved eminently satisfying in the concert hall. The realistic chanting of Meredith Monk's *Other Worlds Revealed* and *Earth Seen from Above*, both excerpts from Monk's opera *Atlas*; and *Panda Chant II* (from *The Games*) opened the program. It was a slightly tentative beginning as some of the singers seemed awkwardly self-conscious performing these unusual works, which require by turns wordless chanting, handclapping, and physical movement. Though unusual, they were performed with winning conviction and infectious zeal.

Francis Poulen's lemon-tangy *Gloria* opened the second half of the program with energy and emotion. My only complaint is that Vance George's choristers never sang below a forte. The guest soloist was soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, who proved a happy discovery. The Poulen was joyful music-making, with swing and a big heart.

The concert ended with a breathtaking romp through Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloe*, Suite No. 2. We are aware of Tilson Thomas' affinity for the French repertoire, but I was not prepared for the sheer power of his involvement. From a very brisk sunrise to the wild concluding choral shouts, the audience was treated to some dazzling orchestral playing and spectacular rhythmic control.

Last week was a more typical evening at the San Francisco Symphony. In a word, the performance was superb. Only Tilson Thomas could have devised a program that so cleverly balanced such tasteful, piquant, and radi-

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OUT THERE

Out There

◀ page 38

charged too much money, so we can't print it here.

Stone declared during the benefit that "there will be a cure and there will be a vaccine" for AIDS, the most emphatically positive statement that anyone at the gathering could remember regarding the epidemic. AmFAR Chairman Dr. Mathilde Krim also seemed upbeat in a chat with Mangin, though she noted that the solutions on the horizon "are still way too expensive, particularly for people in Third World countries."

The AmFAR benefit was a tribute to Ismail Merchant and James Ivory on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of their production company. A star-studded line-up — Vanessa Redgrave, Joanne Woodward, Christopher Reeve, and Jeanne Moreau — read passages from books on which various Merchant Ivory films are based.

Gender Shock

◀ page 45

pressure and terrifying ways.

Burke deconstructs the research studies she read, noting that over and over, when a study comes up with a result that challenges rigid bipolarity, the result is thrown out and the test redesigned. The assumption, for example, that men have bigger brains than women (and we all know bigger is better) and are therefore smarter than women turns out not to be true. When brains are measured relative to body weight, "women's brains turned out to be proportionately bigger than men's. Because of this, that method of calculation was dropped." Studies that reveal that there are more differences among men and among women than there are between men and women are ignored or disregarded.

Burke calls for "gender independence," a way of looking at gender that is disconnected from the sex of the body. "The advantages of gender independence," Burke argues, "are extraordinary. People who are gender independent are more flexible, and have a wider range of strategies for dealing with diverse situations. They do not suppress a part of themselves for fear of not being masculine or feminine, and so have access to more coping techniques and a wider range of problem-solving tools. ... Resilience and flexibility are key mental health components for a postmodern world, where the rules are no longer so simple."

My guess is that every one who reads this newspaper has at some time in her or his life been told, you're not butch enough or you're too butch or variations on those themes. Read this book. It will change the way you look at yourself and your world. Burke supplies index, bibliography and footnotes, while maintaining a readable style that engages as it informs. Read this book. You will be enraged and encouraged, furious at those in charge, and I suspect, more than ready to lead the charge against a gender system that crushes individuality and destroys human potential. Read this book. Join with Miss Vera, who runs a finishing school for boys who want to be girls. Miss Vera doesn't "believe in gender dysphoria. We believe in gender euphoria." Read this book. You are in for the gender shock of your life. ▼

Alternating with the readings were musical and vocal performances, including diva **Barbara Hendricks** putting full operatic flourishes on "Circle of Life," and **Nell Carter** completing the circle at the program's end with a rousing version of "Will the Circle be Unbroken?"

Lenny returns
from the dead

Portia and **Sophie Capplethwaite** were spotted at Zuni last Saturday night, obviously ripped out of their minds and having quite a set-to at the bar. Our spies tell us *les soeurs fétides* had just weaved over from Davies Symphony Hall and were in a heated debate over the results of **Michael Tilson Thomas'** latest musical peregrination, a program commingling **Meredith Monk**, **Charles Ives** and others. Portia reportedly cast a dubious eye on some aspects of the program but was mostly peed off about the maestro's from-the-podium dissertation on what was to come. "He's channeling **Lenny**," she reportedly screeched, "and he should *style it!*" Sophie disagreed violently. "Lenny never would have used such sophisticated language." A shouting match ensued, and the sisters were escorted to the door.



Michael Tilson Thomas

While we're on the subject of MTT, people should know that the esteemed conductor will be one of the celebrity MCs at the October 16th **Fourth Annual Pool Toss** at the Phoenix Hotel (601 Eddy St.) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Mayor I-Now-Admit-I-Can't-Solve-the-Homeless-Problem Brown** will be taking the plunge, along with figure skater **Brian Boitano**, society

queens **Charlotte Swig** and **Nancy Bechtle**, the "Plump Jack duo" **Billy Getty** and **Gavin Newsom**, prostitution rights activist **Margo St. James**, the ubiquitous **Nicholas Graham**, and many others. The event is a benefit for the Tenderloin After-School Program. Tickets are \$5 per person. Call 695-1449 for information. Portia and Sophie hope to see you there.

Back to work

Actor **Christopher Reeve**, paralyzed from the shoulders down since he was thrown from a horse more than a year ago, is back at work, not as an actor but as a director of a one-hour drama, *In the Gloaming*, for HBO. The film, about a young man dying of AIDS, is based on a short story by **Alice Elliot Dark**. Reeve brought *Gloaming's* cast — **Glenn Close**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Bridget Fonda**, **Robert Sean Leonard** and **David Strathairn** — together this week for rehearsals. Filming begins next week in Bedford Hills, N.Y., near Reeve's suburban home.

Mea culpa

Seems **Jenni Olson's** *Afro Promo* at the Roxie came off without a hitch last Tuesday, due in no

small part to the considerable attention paid to it by the press at the Eleventh Hour. But as we've so often learned in the past, haste makes waste. Hence, our apologies to the charming **Karl Kappner**, whom we forgot to mention as co-curator of *Afro Promo*, a provocative look at coming-at-tractions trailers from black films of the '40s, '50s, '60s and early '70s.

Sweetie darlings

It's not that time of year just yet, but in case you're planning that Xmas gift list early, here's something you'll want to get for all the vicious, drunken queens in your life — *The Absolutely Fabulous Gift Set*. This definitive collection contains every escapade of the hard-drinking, chain-smoking, fashionphiles. As an added bonus for fans of this outrageous satire, CBS/FOX and BBC Video will include the first-time video release of "How To Be Absolutely Fabulous," a 30-minute program hosted by *Abfab* star and writer, **Jennifer Saunders**. Suggested retail price for this 7-tape gift set is a mere \$99.98, a \$20 savings over the price of purchasing six individual cassettes. The box set becomes available October 15 at wherever videos are sold. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



La dolce Vida

Cara Vida will bring "The Tearjerker Show" to the Folsom Street Fair this Sunday. She is scheduled to perform her cabaret act on the 12th Street stage at 3:15 p.m. Here, in her own words, is how she got there:

"After years of the AIDS plague, losing friend after friend, sickness and death had become ironically 'a way of life.'

"However, I could not imagine the monumental loss, re-examination and change that would occur in my life with the death of my mother."

"Anyone who has been a primary caregiver during a loved one's terminal illness is all too aware of how your world grows smaller. Your attention is focused on the 'now' of another person."

"During the time of my mother's illness, all my usual activities ceased. There had become a kind of jagged routine in my life that left little for me but the relief and the hope of a good night's sleep."

"When my mother died, I shaved my head to mark her passing."

"During this period of grieving, I started going to karaoke bars. Not only did karaoke help me through my grieving process, but I discovered that I loved singing and entertaining, and formed 'The Three Dynamite Dames.' Later, I decided to pursue a solo cabaret act."

"I am an entertainer who is just coming out of the gate, with a lot of life experience to draw upon. If you go through a life-altering process, hang in there. Ride the waves, watch out for the undertow, and embrace the shore that greets you. That's what I did. And thanks, Mom." ▼

Sat 28

Beauty

Steven Patterson in an erotic odyssey inspired by the writings of Jean Genet, directed by John Sowle. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 10/27. \$10. Studio Rhinoceros, 2916 16th St. 861-5079.

Berlin to Babylon

Cabaret artist Cameron Silver performs songs of Kurt Weill and Friedrich Hollaender. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 10/5. \$10. Speakeasy Theatre, 2016 7th St., Berkeley. (510) 845-4100.

Delirium

Solo performance by Stanya Kahn: characters in a vortex of political crisis and cultural disorientation. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$8. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Evening of Hope

Fundraiser for Project Inform honors Dr. Paul Volberding and the AIDS team at UCSF. \$125. 6:30pm. Sheraton Palace Hotel. 558-8669.

Jim Bailey

"Live in Concert," portrayals of Barbara Streisand, Judy Garland. Tues.-Sun. thru 9/29 at 8pm. \$20-25, 2 drink minimum. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Jungle Red

Artfull Circle Theatre's "all-girl" musical comedy based on "The Women." Donna Sachet, Ann Drogosny, Birdie Bob Watt, more. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/26. \$15. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 500 Sutter. 621-5455.

Living Room Festival

Independent films on immigration, including Trac Vu's "The First Year," a teenager's introduction to the U.S., sex with boys, and K-mart. 11pm. KQED-TV, Ch. 9.

Oakland Ballet

Season opener includes Nijinski's "Bolero" and "Le Train Bleu" with the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$6-36. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2277.

PROJEXPO

Video, film, slides, sculpture, installations and performances in multimedia queer space happening. \$5. 8:30pm. Jewelry Store, 2519 Mission. 864-5453.

Something Sort of Grandish

42nd St. Moon presents cabaret revue: lyrics by E.Y. (Yip) Harburg. Wed.-Sun. thru 9/29, call for times. \$18. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Traveling

A trip with the beautiful people in Mark Davis' head. Fri.-Sun. thru 9/29. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sat 28

Cabaret Hollywood

Cabaret revue featuring actors from Hollywood's golden years. \$5. 9:30pm. Kimo's Lounge, Pine and Polk. 861-6748.

Sun 29

921-6748.

Deporting the Divas

Guillermo Reyes' sequel to "Men on the Verge of a Hispanic Breakdown," a look at the gay immigrant experience. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 10/12. \$12-18. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2916 16th St. 861-5079.

Drag Show

Living Sober: AA, Al-Anon mtg. 8pm, show 9pm. \$8-15. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 978-2478.

Drummer

13 men from the U.S. and Australia compete for Internat'l Mr. Drummer title. 3pm. \$25. 177 Townsend. 974-6020.

Erotic Art

Sculptures by Wim Griffith, pencil drawings by Leon, thru 10/31. Wings Gallery, 4077-A 18th St. 864-3456.

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Corona Heights Habitat Restoration project, potluck picnic. Meet at Randall Museum, Museum Way off Roosevelt. 10am. 334-2134.

Gay Comedy Night

Bob McIntyre, Lisa Geduldig, Suzy Berger. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Jungle Red

"Almost always a capella" pop quintet, with The Irrationalists and Not What You Think. \$5. Kassman Recital Hall, 131 Franklin.

Karin Kallmaker

Reading her new lesbian romance, "Wild Things" free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Kielbasia: Queen of Poland

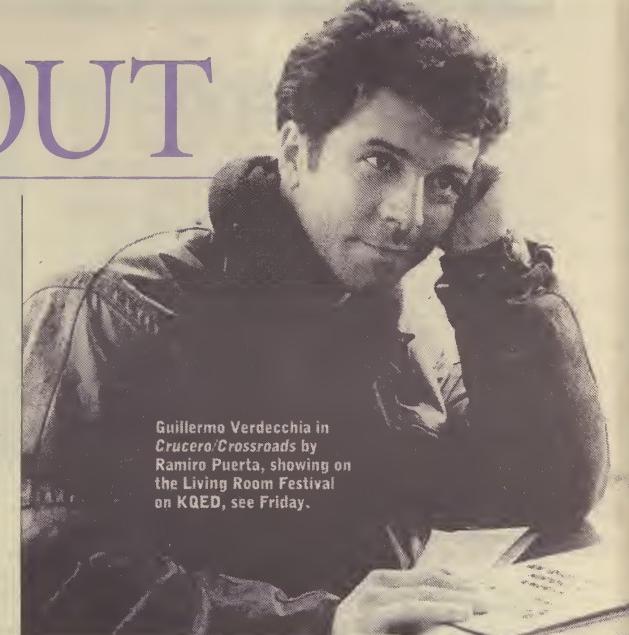
"A Fairy Tale of Family Roots and Fatty Foods," written and performed by Matthew Morin. Sliding scale admission. Sats. thru Sept. at 8:30pm. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk

Sensational guests, smart talk, biting humor. \$8. Midnight. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Lesbian Erotic:

"Pictures from 1975-1995," exhibit of pioneering lesbian photographers including Phyllis Christopher, Honey Lee Cottrell, Jill Posener, more. Sat. & Sun. 2-5pm thru 11/3. Gay and Lesbian Historical



Guillermo Verdeccchia in *Crucero/Crossroads* by Ramiro Puerto, showing on the Living Room Festival on KQED, see Friday.

Society of Calif., 973 Market. 777-5455.

Lesbigay Radio

Queer music & comedy: punts, politicians & pioneers. Sat. nights at Midnight. 1450 AM. 1-800-GAY-6550.

Odd Girls & Twilight Lovers

Dinner/dance for women produced by Bay Area Career Women, presented by author Lillian Faderman. \$55. 6pm. Grand Hyatt, Union Square. 495-5393.

Talk With Your Mouth Full

Open House: performances by SF Winds of Freedom Band, Dixieland Dykes, High Risk Group, more. Donations. 7pm. Jon Sims Center for the Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Radio Mambo:

"Culture Clash invades

Miami," Chicano/Latino com-

edy trio impersonates Miami residents. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 10/13. \$14-16. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. 487-5401.

Beer Bust

Benefits Home Care Aide Fund of Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. \$6. 3-7pm. The Cinch, 1723 Polk.

DragStrip

Lascivious nitespot, performers include Kuntury Kunts, Donna Matrix, more. \$3 before 8pm, \$6 after, benefits Maitri AIDS Hospice. 6pm-2am. Cat's Grill, 1190 Folsom.

Mon 30

Beer Bust

& Drag Jazz Band. No cover. 8:30pm. Hamburger Mary's, 1582 Folsom. 626-1985.

Gay Book Clubs

Gay Men's Book Club discusses "A Single Man," Lesbian Book Club discusses "Sea of Light." 7pm. Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 461-0171.

Tues

Beyond Boundaries

Exhibition of recent work by Enrique Chagoya. Tues.-Sat. thru 10/5. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Crossing Boundaries: Best

Exhibition of contemporary art from Northern Ireland. Mon.-Sat. thru 10/17. Art Dept. Gallery, SF State Univ., 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Gnomon

Strange installation of multi-media "blob" with mind of its own, collaboration between Interim Office of Architecture and Toni Bonnaro, thru 12/1. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Lisa Lemeland

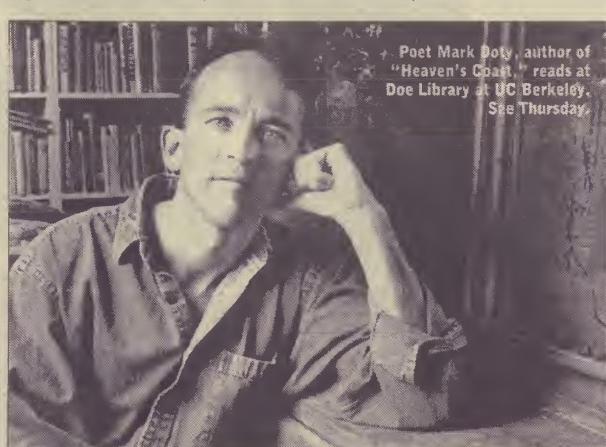
Show of recent paintings, with sculpture by Anne Veraldi: two innovative women artists. Thru 10/15. Buechon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Model Culture:

"James Casebere, Photographs 1975-1996," mid-career survey. Thru 10/20. \$5. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Observant Eye:

"Portrait Drawings by Don Bachardy" thru 12/1. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park.



Poet Mark Doty, author of "Heaven's Coast," reads at Doe Library at UC Berkeley, See Thursday.

Robert Giard

Stanya Kahn performs "Delirium" at New Langton Arts. See Friday.

**Pani & Fili:**

"Breads and Threads from Italy," exhibition of decorative breads and textiles. \$3. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/27. Museo ItalAmericano and SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldgs. A&C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

QTV-San Francisco

Weekly lesbian & gay programming. 7pm. Cable Channel 47.

Sally Mann

Photographs from "Immediate Family" and new work. Thurs 11/2. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

The Towering Inferno

The Sick and Twisted Players' production of the 1974 burning skyscraper movie, with plenty of low-budget/high concept effects. Tues. thru 10/1. \$10. 8pm. Transmission Theater, 314 11th St. 826-5358.

Wed**Art for Life**

Exhibit prior to auction benefiting Face to Face Sonoma Co. AIDS Network, thru 10/4. Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa. 707-544-1581.

Classical Influence in Dress

Costumes reflecting ancient

Greek, Roman and Egyptian styles, thru 11/17. \$6. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Damn Yankees

Jerry Lewis as the devil in the Broadway musical. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/13, call for times. \$32-\$62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

El Dorado

UMO Ensemble, European Buffoon Theatre, portray Conquistadors' quest for the city of gold. Thurs 10/6 at 8pm. \$12.50-\$16.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

It's Elementary

"Talking About Gay Issues in School," film by Debra Chasoff & Helen Cohen. 10/2-3, call for times. Castro Theatre, Castro & Market. 621-6120.

Medea, the Musical

John Fisher's hit play. Wed. Sat. at 8pm, Sat. & Sun. at 3pm thru 10/13. \$25-\$29. Stage Door Theatre, 420 Mason. 433-9500.

Oktoberfest

Baby Judy's dance club celebrates the German fall festival. \$3. Casanova, 527 Valencia.

Party

David Dillon's comedy: seven gay friends play "Facts and Fantasies." Wed.-Sun. thru 11/3, call for times. \$20-\$25.

Tonight at 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 1/5. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-\$38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Rebecca Brown

Reading from "What Keeps Me Here," free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Shlemiel The First

ACT production of play by Isaac Bashevis Singer, adapted by Robert Brustein. Tues.-Sun. thru 10/13, call for times. \$19-\$47.50. Tonight at 8pm. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

The Table of Voices

Exhibition by artist/activist Richard Kanner, '96 Adaline Kent Award winner, thru 10/6. Walter/McBean Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut.

Thur**Bright Red Mysteries**

Motion picture art director Syd Mead creates the scene of a crashed spaceship. Tues.-

Sun. thru 11/10. \$4. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Exploring Scapes

Photography and design by Wm. Kirk Moore, Dave Bush and Ron Heikes. Mon.-Fri. thru 10/25. Michael Thompson Gallery, 1 Sutter. 391-7795.

Low Brow Gods:

"The Art of Boxing," exhibition of artwork which includes images of the sport, also historical boxing posters. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/10. \$4. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Mark Doty

Poet, author of "Heaven's Coast," reads, free. 12:10pm. Morrison Rm, Doe Library, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-0137.

Open Studios

More than 600 local artists show their work. Opening reception for directory exhibition tonight, 6pm. Thurs 10/27. SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan. 861-9838.

Pagan Rites

Paintings by Dragon, thru 10/19. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant, #110. 284-0567.

SECA Art Award

Society for Encouragement of Contemporary Art exhibits D-L Alvarez, Anne Appleby, Barry McGee. Thurs 1/7. \$7. SFMOMA, 1513 3rd St. 357-4000.

Spiders in Toy Land

New works by artists Scooter & Timothy Cummings. Thurs 10/10. Off Your Dot, 2241 Market. 252-5642.

The Night Boat

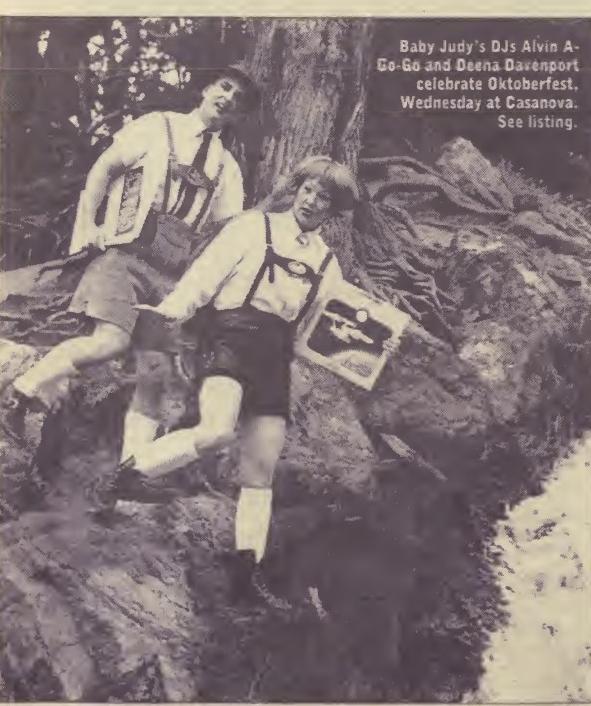
42nd St. Moon's production of Jerome Kern's 1920s musical opens. Thurs.-Sun. thru 10/20, call for times. \$18. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Baby Judy's DJs Alvin A-Go-Go and Deena Davenport celebrate Oktoberfest, Wednesday at Casanova. See listing.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Grilled center-cut Pork Chops with pineapple sweet & sour sauce, chef's rice or mashed potatoes.....\$9.50

Penne Pasta with Chicken and Rock Shrimp, creamy pesto.....\$9.75

Grilled 12-oz N.Y. Pepper Steak with brandy-cream sauce.....\$11.95

Chicken Fried Steak with mashed potatoes & country gravy and fresh vegetables.....\$7.95

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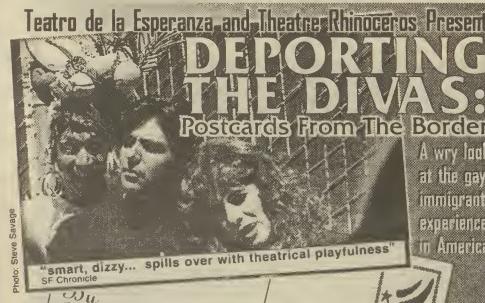
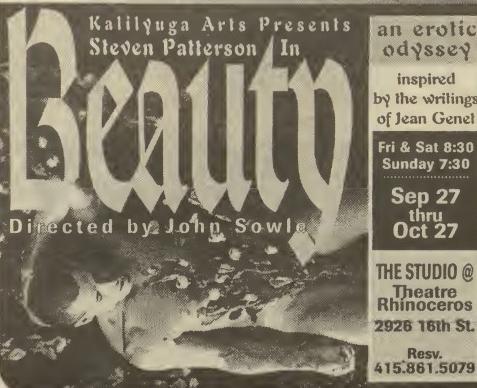


Photo: Steve Savage
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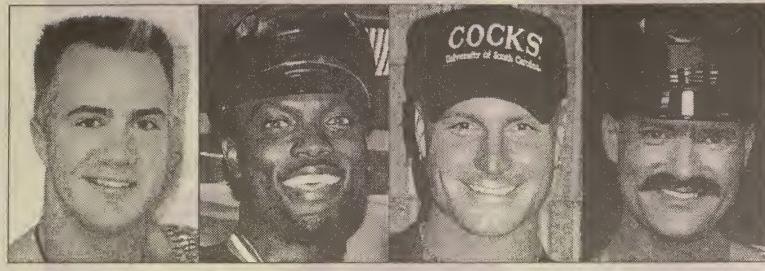
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Bob Jacobs
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Jerry Leigh
Mr. Great Lakes Drummer



Bill Masters
Mr. Florida Drummer



Rick Noss
Mr. Desert/Plains Drummer



Ken Rosetti
Mr. Northeast Drummer



Antonio Sanchez
Mr. Europe Drummer



"Taurus" Webster
Mr. Northern California Drummer



Don Woods
Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer

Leather March

◀ page 1

the most money (\$665), with Mr. Northern California Drummer Taurus Webster second with \$417. The group that raised the most was the Knights of Malta MC (\$245). Everyone who participated was sporting a very handsome commemorative pin. Bravo and good show, Art, and thanks to all who volunteered.

Then Lenny Broberg and Cornelius Conboy took over the stage as the 1997 Bare Chest Calendar men and their autographed photos (with erotic videos) were offered up for auction. A riotous and raunchy interlude saw a dinner date with calendar cover man Mike Wieland bring a \$1700 bid from Dewey Green.

When all was said and done, a whopping \$3,105 was raised, making the AEF's take for the day almost \$11,000 – another record. Kudos to Tommy Thomas of the Phoenix Uniform Club for preparing a very impressive food line for everyone!

It's always reassuring to know that non-leather sections of our community appreciate the efforts of San Francisco's leather tribe. A Different Light always recognizes our efforts and our history. Once again this year, their front window contains a great historical display by Robert Prager, with lots of memorabilia – including the famous Febe's statue conceived and executed by Mike Caffee. Yes, Mike is still alive and well, and it was a treat to see him, Bob Prager and Bill Tillman "window dressing" at ADL. Check this one out!

Last night, Wednesday, Sept. 25, all 12 regional Mr. Drummer contestants were onstage at the SF Eagle, with current Mr. Drummer David Walker emceeing the contestants' basket auction (proceeds go

to the 1996 International Mr. Drummer's travel fund). As usual, auctioneer Lenny Broberg was in top form and ably assisted by Frank Nowicki.

What a parade of pulchritude! The overflow crowd was extremely pleased with this tableau of titans.

Tonight, Thursday, Sept. 26, at 2000, members of the gay press, TV teams and photographers will be at the Eagle for the official press party. Get photographed with your fave Mr. Drummer contestants, but get there early! The contestants go before the judges on Friday morning for their pre-judging interviews, so they'll need their beauty sleep.

(They'll be interviewed by judges Int'l. Mr. Drummer '95 David Walker, Int'l. Ms. Leather '91 Kay Hallanger, Int'l. Mr. Leather '96 Joe Gallagher, Chicago's Harley McMillen, D.C.'s Jim McGlade, Int'l. Master Jack Stice of Atlanta, Boston's Charles Carley and Amsterdam's delightful Evert Dijkema!)

Immediately following the press party, San Francisco's leather daddies are hosting an art auction at the Eagle of work by world-famous gay artists. Some great stuff, so bring cash, plastic and non-rubber checks. (Are you reading this, Richard Bollingbrook?)

On Friday night, Sept. 27, the madness continues with the annual Fetish & Fantasy Ball at 1015 Folsom at 1800. Local, national and international leather folk (titled and nontitled) will be onstage to perform fantasies. The \$10 admission benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund, with a special play party if you want to pay the additional fee. The dungeon will be supervised by members of The 15 Association.

Also on Friday at 2000, the deaf leather community will host a "roast" and buffet dinner, "The Last Supper," at the SF Eagle in honor of outgoing Mr. Drummer David Walker. It will be emceed by IML Joe Gallagher and Int'l. Ms. Deaf Leather Cool Cat. Only \$8.

On Saturday afternoon, the finals of the International Mr. Drummer competition will take place at Club Townsend (177 Townsend). The doors open at 1500, and the competition begins at 1530.

Frank Nowicki will do the emcee honors with voice-overs by our own Irwin Kane. You'll love this production by Audrey Joseph. See the leather image, hear the speech and view the physique portions (each worth a maximum of 200 points). By the time you read this, most of the \$40 VIP tickets will be gone, but the Club Townsend ticket office

(177 Townsend, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) has \$25 tickets on sale there. Tix will also be available at the door the day of the contest.

And hey, there are four Drummer Boys, too: Rocky Mountain's Mike DeNisco, Florida's Bill Karr, Northern California's Jon Ayers and Southern California's Kevin Notre. The Mr. Drummer contestants score them 75% for service and 25% for boy image.

However, what would Leather Pride Week be without a Mark I. Chester photo exhibition? This year's sterling edition, "Diary of a Thought Criminal," can be viewed at Chester's studio, 1229 Folsom, during the fair. If you miss it then, the show hangs until Oct. 13. Call 292-3223 for details. Chester's also having a book signing and a slide show on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 1930 at A Different Light.

On Sunday, of course, is the



Bazaar

All photos by Mater Marcus

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Sept. 26

International gay press party at the SF Eagle, 1900-2100. If you missed the contestants last night at the Eagle, they'll all be here and so will the judges! After that, it's the SF leather daddies art auction to benefit the AEF, with tons of art-work on the block.

Friday, Sept. 27

Deaf leather community's The Last Supper for Mr. Drummer at the Eagle, with food, beer bust and shenanigans by the usual suspects!

Full Moon party at The Edge at 2000. Any asshole could possibly win \$50 gift certificate for dinner at Lupanni's.

Real Bad dance party, 2000-0200, \$15 advance/\$20 door at 375 First St.

Saturday, Sept. 28

International Mr. Drummer Contest finals at 177 Townsend. VIP ticket (\$40) for a reserved seat; VIP cocktail party at 1430; doors open at 1500 for general admission ticket holders. The show begins at 1530. You should be out of there by 2000, so go out and party! Lay those traps!

The 15 Association's monthly play party, 2100 to 0200. \$10 donation. BYOB. Guests must accompany you. For invite and location, call 673-0452.

Rubber Corps of SF latex social at 1356 Harrison (upstairs), 2000-2300, with pizza, drinks, videos and changing room. Afterward, a trip to SF's leather bars.

Sunday, Sept. 29

The world's largest leather gathering on Folsom Street, 1100-1800. Leather men, women, families (as we know them), more men and all sorts of

booths loaded with merchandise, etc. No group will host the Eagle beer bust, but get there early! Dance parties galore after the fair. Pleasuredome leads the pack. The Black Party's "Time for Black" at 715 Harrison - \$20 advance/\$30 door. Both going until Monday morning!

Wednesday, Oct. 2

The Giraffe on Polk celebrates its 19th anniversary, beginning at 1600. The event's also a fundraiser for my fave, Municipal Court Judge candidate Kay Tsenin.

Weekend, Oct. 3-5

The NLA's annual paean to itself, the Living in Leather Conference, in Portland, Ore. Weekend-long seminars, play parties, Mr./Ms. NLA contest, etc.

Thursday, Oct. 3

Basket contest at The Edge, with a 2000-2300 beer bust. Contest is at 2200. With \$1 raffle tickets. Win \$100 and photo session with Joe Balducci.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Second bike christening this year at the SF Eagle, 1500-1800. Name your bike, get it christened, a nice plaque and your name added to the Eagle's Christening Hall of Fame plaque. Call in advance (626-0880) or fax (626-6509). Defenders MC beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, \$6, 1500-1900. They'll have raffle tickets as well.

Sunday, Oct. 6

The Castro Street Fair today. Booths, music, dancing, cruising galore, etc.

13th Annual Folsom Street Fair! Volunteers should call Steve Gaynes at 861-6983; some stations will be setting up as early as 0500. If you're out and about Saturday night, make sure you don't leave your car parked anywhere on Folsom St. or it might get towed!

There are all kinds of great entertainment scheduled and hundreds of booths with tons of ma-

terial for your consideration. Be sure to drop by the AIDS Emergency Fund booth at 9th and Folsom, where the Bare Chest Calendar guys will be signing their calendar. The perfect stocking stuffer!

Hey, just have a good time, exercise caution (as well as decorum), and make all our visitors welcome. According to weather

predictions and history, the 13th Annual Folsom Street Fair should be bright and sunny. Have a great time!

(P.S. My ex-clue-sive of the week: A new leather bar, the Loading Dock, was supposed to open last night on Mission Street (between 11th and 12th). It's the brain child of former Mr. SF Leather Greg Byfield.) ▼

Houston hussies

by Sweet Lips

The South will rise again with the West Coast invasion of the Houston Montrose group on Friday, Sept. 27. Approximately 14 Southern (cracked) belles, alumni of the **Blanche DuBois** Finishing School, will be descending on the City by the Bay in search of, you guessed it, men. I guess those Texas saddle tramps prefer their nags to these hags!

Anyway, these gals are handy with a lasso and do cast their nets wide, if you know what I mean. Our streets, not to mention alleyways, will not be safe for man or beast. **Larry, Ramon, Jason, Mario, LaMoynne, Richard, Jim, Bill**, etc. — helium heels all — are actually very sweet and anxious to show you just how hospitable they can be. Be on the lookout for these merry marauders; you stand warned!

It's her party, and she'll cry if she wants to! **Jim Doan** celebrates a half century of existence on Friday, Sept. 27, 5-7 p.m., at the Company Cocktail Lounge (1319 California St.). **Dennis "Mesquite and Macaroni" Tyler** is doing the buffet honors.

Out of retirement and on the plank! After 10 years out of the limelight, the legendary "Nooch," a.k.a. **Sweet Baby Annette**, is holding court and pushing the suds at the Giraffe (1131 Polk St.), Fri.-Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. We old girls still got what it takes!

Speaking of that long-necked herbivore — the Giraffe not

Nooch — that august establishment is celebrating its 19th anniversary on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 4 p.m., with special hors d'oeuvres by **Dennis "Cumin and Caviar" Tyler**. Municipal Court Judge candidate **Kay Tsenin** will be the guest of honor.

'Tis also the season for the Swallow's big anniversary blowout (1750 Polk) on Sat. and Sun., Oct. 5-6, from 4:30 p.m. on, with canapés, frappés and other goodies by the ubiquitous **Dennis "Paprika and Pineapple" Tyler**. Plus great entertainment, of course. Kudos to **Gary, Michael and Jerry**.

Fred ("Freddy") Huff, now of Seattle, was here for a week, visiting his Great-Aunt **Cora** of the Cinch family.

Yes, **Richard, a.k.a. Rachel**, is still at the P.S. on the Polkstrasse, keeping everyone amused and well-lubricated.

Thank you, **Matthew Baker**, the popular deejay at the Phoenix on Castro Street, for turning down the music while I was visiting with **Duffy**. And to that "helpful" barfly who couldn't help butting in, no, it isn't about time I got a hearing aid. However, I do have one or two things I'd like to give you, doll, starting with a good swift kick to your enormous *derrière* if you ever left your stool long enough.

The Twin Peaks, a.k.a. The Glass Coffin, The Way We Were,

etc., still has **Jeff Green** mixing those lovely libations, with the ever-popular **Liz** serving your cocktail of choice. It's amazing how you move though that crowd, girl! It's like **Moses** parting the Red Sea!

It was divine to have had **Gerry Cadman** from Ontario here for two weeks again. That's one hoser I can't get enough of.

That people pleaser, **Little Bruce**, is still pouring afternoons at Reflections (1160 Polk St.), and yes, to all who've inquired, **Dick Cook** is back from his stint south of the Mason-Dixon.

Good news: **Bob Glenn** of Sutter's Mill fame is out of the hospital and enjoying the full bloom of health. He's even back pumping iron at the gym. Can jazzercise be far behind?

Start laying your traps — to borrow a phrase from a fellow columnist — for the annual Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 11 a.m. on. If my whalebone shipment makes it in time, you'll be seeing me in my leather corset and other paraphernalia, whip it good! (To all interested parties, and you know who you are, **Lance Cartwright of Portland** will be here for the big event.)

Flash! I've just been informed that that delectable **Stern** has nighthailed it over to the Giraffe. You can join him there Mon.-Tues., 2-8 p.m. It's where the boys are! ▼

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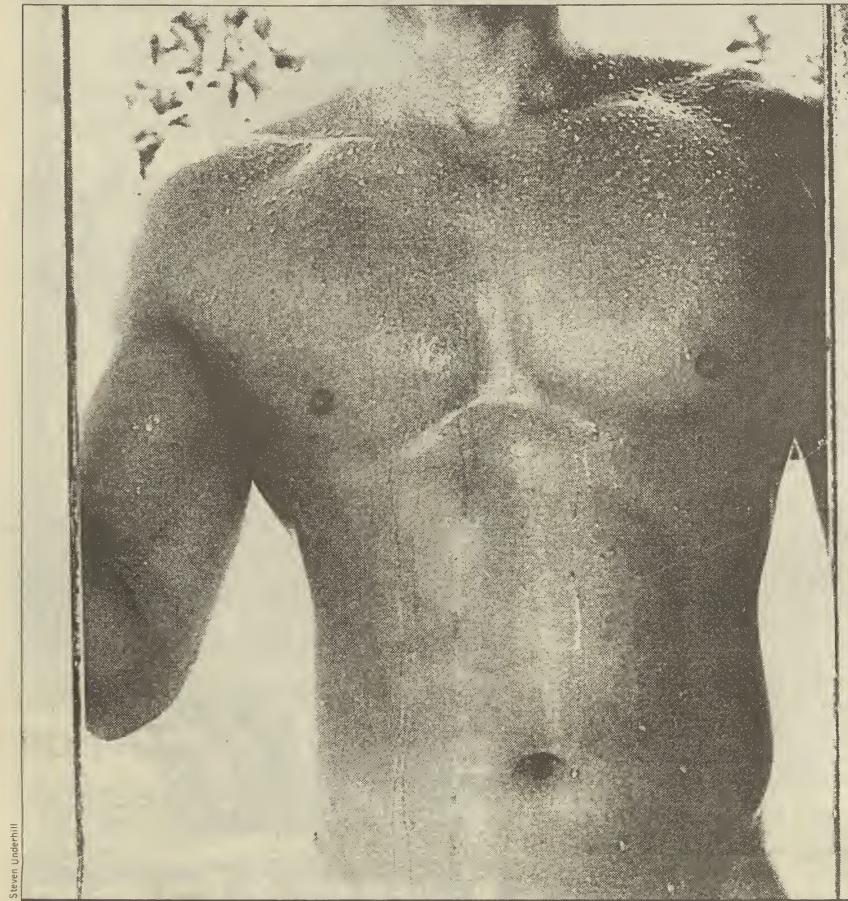
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PARTING GLANCES

Home Depot: Colma 8/27 5:30PM
You: dark hair, blue soccer shirt. Me: Latino, husky, w/dark blue shirt. You smiled near indoor plants, too shy to say anything. Can't stop thinking about you. ☎ 2701.

Metro/Castro 8/31 "M Line"
Saturday 8/26 10PM I'm 41, Wm, 25, tan shorts/SF Bay Area. You: blonde, homey, HM 20s, wht shirt/red stripe, would enjoy talking w/you, exchanged long glances, you SF/State/ident. ☎ 2702.

Brina Brina Sat 8/8
You: cute, light hair, goatee, dark T-shirt & blue shirt. Me: cute, dark hair, goatee, white shirt. Our eyes met several times but our friends were in the way. ☎ 2703.

Ode To Man In Big 98 Sweatshirt
I wanted everything, why shouldn't I? You prefer the circle. OK the circle is just what you deserve better. I got one last look. Thnx. ☎ 2704.

In Front Of Phoenix At Closing
Night 8/31. You: "Bill?" Leaving Daddy's walking down Castro stopped & introduced himself. Me: 6', dark blond w/trimmed beard. Sorry we didn't connect. Hope you call. Marc. ☎ 2801.

Hey Bike Boy! 24th @ Valencia
You caught my attention, stopped, removed your helmet. We: Hispanic male feverishly enticed & too much of a wuss about you on my back & take you home, Tony. ☎ 2802.

Poodles Seeks Evil Stepsister
Where are you my tragic, lost, evil stepsister? Lurking about, no doubt! Let's recreate last year's Folsom St. fair—meet me at the End Up—& make an entrance. goddamn it! ☎ 2803.

Lyon Stairs Cow Hollow 9/4
You spoke with me on stairs above where they go. You: glasses, from either side of Cow Hollow. I was running—marion sweatshirt/shorts. Let's talk? ☎ 2804.

Gumby!!!
Watergarden, Thurs., Sept. 5, 8PM. I was leaving. We smiled. We talked "Gumby." Would love to talk more. Call. ☎ 2806.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Castro Commons Resident 9/10
9:30 PM walking side by side, I said walk slower or faster. You: "We could walk together and become friends." Want to take that walk? Lyle. ☎ 2901.

Embarcadero Center, Sat Aug 31
Me: green tank top, brown shorts, baseball cap, wifriend. You: guy w/the beautiful smile, wifider woman & man. I'd love to see your smile again. Please call! ☎ 2807.

Tom-Formerly At Now Voyager
One of our best fans has lost track of you. Where are you working? Please call. ☎ 2902.

So Why Didn't You Stop?
You were on your motorcycle cruising me. I was watered in front of my house. Would have been fun. ☎ 2903.

Castro Muni Station 9/10
Me: horny GBM; You: sweet, fine, young GWM. I enjoyed our encounter would like more. Call me. ☎ 2904.

Labor Day Walnut Creek Pool
Your name Raul. We met & talked briefly at Clark Pool/Heather Farms. I would like to talk again. Meet me at the pool — or call. ☎ 2905.

Barking Bunch D of Bears
Sausage Factory, Sat 9/14 evening. Me: dark hair/white jacket w/friends. You: T-shirt/jean w/four friends. Wish I had barked back—this time I will. Please call. ☎ 2906.

Sunday 9/15 Pleasant Hill
Trim, attractive, masculine, GWM, 5'8", 140#, br/bk, clean cut 40s, versatile, seeks GWM/A, 30-45, trim/no too tall, for relationship. Us: HIV-, monogamous, masculine, communicative, passionate, cultural interests, NS. ☎ 2717.

Labor Day
Sat 9/14 across sidewalk table looking at candles. Your: WM, tall, beautiful eyes, smile, skin, red plaid flannel shirt. Me: blond, blue, sunglasses, black shirt. Wanna talk? Meet? ☎ 2908.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Nice Guy Sports Fan Seeks Same
By this 23 yr old Asian male. I'm 5'7", 145#, workout regularly. Age & race unimportant. ☎ 2710.

Looking For Mr. Right
Male looking for relationship? Call me: GWM, 40+, experienced, HIV-, educated, wise, affectionate, loyal, emotional adult. Try me: You: any race, 18-53, sensuous. Easy, just dial. ☎ 2705.

Attention Shoppers
Looking for a relationship? Call me: GWM, 40+, experienced, HIV-, educated, wise, affectionate, loyal, emotional adult. Try me: You: any race, 18-53, sensuous. Easy, just dial. ☎ 2706.

Looking For A Friend
To meet on regular basis. I'm WM, 35, tall, masculine, professional, nice body & soul. You are 25-44, HIV-, healthy, safe & honest, prefer Berkeley area. ☎ 2707.

Positively-Positive Husband Top
Are you HIV+, healthy, happy, humorous & a hopelessly romantic bottom? Are you tired of meaningless one night stands? Do you value emotional intimacy as much as wild passionate sex? ☎ 2708.

GWM Wants GWM For LTR
WM, 50, short, cute, HIV- wants a good buddy (for two) who's nice looking, HIV+, well endowed, ht/wt prop, also HIV-, for mutual cocksucking & sleeping over. No strings—for now. ☎ 2715.

Hi, I'm Black
Mid 40's, healthy, stable, cuddly, lovable & affectionate. Seek men of all race & size—late 50's or older. Average looks & old age really turns me on. Let's meet! ☎ 2718.

Body Positive
We are a social group for health minded HIV+ single men. We have monthly potluck social, as well as, special weekend events. This is a great way to meet new friends. ☎ 2719.

GWM Seeks GW/AM For LTR
Pre-op T.S., 37, 6', blond, brown... nice looking seeks mature, friendly, sexual, sincere, playful, romantic, cuddly LTR. Jazz, old Rock N Roll, movies. M or F. ☎ 2720.

Tomcat Seeks Tiger...
Or equivalent. GWM, 38, brn/brn, 185#, attractive, dangerously intelligent. Seeking husband—a sharp, hairy, gentleman, mustached or bearded. Intelligence important. No preconceptions, let's meet & see. ☎ 2711.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Big Masculine Men Wanted
By this 33 yr old Asian male. I'm 5'7", 145#, workout regularly. Age & race unimportant. ☎ 2710.

Looking For Mr. Right
Male looking for relationship? Call me: GWM, 43, 6', 146#, gym-toned, goatie, honest, sincere, & HIV- seeking GB/LAM, 21-45, slender to average, stocky, endowed, 30-45, buddy/lover w/sense of humor. ☎ 2705.

GBT Seek Mr. Wonderful
Affectionate, handsome GWM, 39, 6'3", top/hung, looking for nice time. Friendship-pos. lover. Serious guys only. ☎ 2712.

GWM Seek Mr. Wonderful
Affectionate, handsome GWM, 39, 6'3", top/hung, looking for nice time. Friendship-pos. lover. Serious guys only. ☎ 2712.

Bottoms Up
WM: tall, fit, 50, HIV+, versatile bottom sees BM 35-55, fit, also versatile bottom for social, sexual companion. Social: movies, theater, dining, sports etc. Sexual: touch, titplay, oral & willingness to explore dildos for mutual pleasure. ☎ 2714.

Ambient Sex/Virtual Love
ISO your basic top man, willing to forego looks & size & just go for the asshole, after all isn't that where the action is? Asshole play A+. ☎ 2819.

Hi, I'm Black
Mid 40's, healthy, stable, cuddly, lovable & affectionate. Seek men of all race & size—late 50's or older. Average looks & old age really turns me on. Let's meet! ☎ 2718.

Body Positive
We are a social group for health minded HIV+ single men. We have monthly potluck social, as well as, special weekend events. This is a great way to meet new friends. ☎ 2719.

Indian Girl
Pre-op T.S., 37, 6', blond, brown... nice looking seeks mature, friendly, sexual, sincere, playful, romantic, cuddly LTR. Jazz, old Rock N Roll, movies. M or F. ☎ 2720.

Euroean Burdige Maste
Interested in Shannanam seeks independent submissive and/or masochist. 20 to 45 yo, for partnership, be in shape. I'm 5'9", 180#, handsome, uncut, muscular sadist, serious only. ☎ 2721.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

South Bay GAM
Seeking GWM, 25-35, gentleman for relationship & romantic adventure. I'm 5'10", 155#, gdkg, healthy, professional, straight acting, Chinese-Vietnamese. ☎ 2722.

Rare GAM
Seeks playful, humorous, educated & hot GW/HAM. I'm boyishly cute, 28 yo, versatile top, smart, 5'9", 145#. Love to write, converse in specifics, & enjoy interesting & optimistic men. You are HIV-, NS/ND, & under 35. ☎ 2723.

A Fremont Guy
Adventurous, masculine, East Bay WM top, 47, 6', 185#, light brown buzz, clean shaven HIV-, NS, seeking similar, younger (26-38), clean cut, HIV+, very masculine WM for a hot LTR. ☎ 2724.

Young Daddy Lusts S/J or Son
Smart, smooth skin to ravish & pamper. Mutual pleasuring, body worship, servicing package & bubble butt by HIV- discrete professional. ☎ 2725.

HIV- Humorous Skng Soulmate
If you are built, attractive, sexy & w/a healthy & intelligent, personality then you should respond. If not, be at least one of the two, love life & don't be airhead. ☎ 2726.

GWM Seeks GAM
For friendship, possibly more. I'm 22, gdkg, romantic, ready for dating again. You: 18-30, NS, ND, HIV-. Let's get together & see what happens! ☎ 2759.

Cute GBM Seeks Steady Boyfriend
I'm 32, 5'10", 185#, a welcome & reliable GWM for a date & possible relationship. Desire a monogamous man, 30-39, HIV- who's ht/wt proportionate & emotionally available. ☎ 2808.

Border Brothers Wanted
GWM, 24, 5'7", bottom, seeks trim/slimmer border brothers, 18-30, uncut, for friendship/more. Be honest, caring & affectionate. Ready for relationship. Leave message, description & number. I'm very lonely. ☎ 2809.

I Just Might Be The One For You
40ish, GWM, HIV-, looking for the right guy whose ready to settle down & make a commitment. I'm easy going, Independent & willing to take a chance if you are too—give me a call. ☎ 2810.

Young Attractive Asian
GWM, 38, 5'10", 185#, gdkg, friendly, & easy going. Looking for a friend or more, 25 to 45 yrs. Call me, I'll be waiting for you. See ya! ☎ 2811.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationships. ☎ 2812.

Like Holes
Very handsome WM, 41, 6', br;br, 170#, jock, masculine, smart, HIV-, seeks straight looking similar Caucasians Jock for good times. ☎ 2813.

Hairy Stud
Like to service hot top? Me: 34, 5'9", 150#, hairy, beefy, big shave nipples, dark hair, 36D, hairy chest, big dick. You: GWM, under 35, attractive, total bottom, eager to please. I'm HIV+, you too? ☎ 2814.

Contemporary Cocksucking 2001
Expert dick sucking maximizes load (virile) cock suckers sees loads over dicks; size queen passé; loads paramount today! My cock sucking service bookable as often as your load level allows. Call now! ☎ 2815.

River Phoenix Incarnation
Seeks Gentleman to fly to the moon & be fearless in the face of all obstacles. Free Tibet! Free Tibet! ☎ 2835.

Nice Guy
WM, 47, HIV-, clean, trim, smooth, seeking romantic GWM, 55-65, HIV+, ht/wt proportionate for mutual oral sex. Must have your own place! ☎ 2816.

Big Feet Big Hands
60+ lbs, 5'10", 185#, tall, good looking, cook artist & sports fan who enjoys movie going, theater & dining out, sees some one w/misimilar interests for dating & maybe more. Please call! ☎ 2817.

Tall, Dark & Husky
Latin male, olive complexion, 35, 6'2", 250#, black hair, brown eyes, clean shaven. I'm a light drinker, non-smoker/drug. I consider myself to be sensitive, affectionate & good natured. Men under 45 pls. ☎ 2818.

Basic Smooth Bottom
ISO your basic top man, willing to forego looks & size & just go for the asshole, after all isn't that where the action is? Asshole play A+. ☎ 2819.

East Bay Dad, Sensitive, Loving
And caring, seeks man of color to share in the many pleasures of life—candle lit dinners, dancing, camping, etc. Let's explore the realm of possibilities. ☎ 2820.

Blond German
Seeks friendly gentleman, older preferred. I'm 25, x-handsome, intelligent, discrete. Meet regularly & receive a deep, satisfying massage. No sex, mutually beneficial. SF or Marin only. ☎ 2821.

Gentleman's Gentleman...
Seasoned Englishman, educated blue collar, is bossy & sexual. You are nurturing, compliant & want to please. ☎ 2822.

Special For Straight, Married...
Older gentleman is fit & erotic. Ready for your activity, your way. Safe, secure. Suisse. ☎ 2917.

Life's A Contact Sport!
Hot GWM, 6', 43, 170#, in shape top ISO bottom boys for dating & possible LTR. Like butt play, toys & just plain sex. HIV- OK, Asians A+. Let's play touch. ☎ 2823.

Help! Endangered Species (GAM)
31, Chinese has the charm, brain, personality, body, but no attitude. Relatively but unpredictable, secure enough to be vulnerable. (Student in Psychology) ISO quality W/AM for old-fashioned dating. Guarantee call back. ☎ 2916.

Dad Seeks Masc Son HIV+ 25-35
Into travel—outdoors, alt rock, fun, adventure, 6', gdkg. I am 41, 6'2", 190#, brn hair, blu/grn eyes, in North Bay w/trans. ☎ 2918.

Beyond Daddy Boy
Sexy, spiritual boy, 5'8", 130#, seeks man who is more than a role. Attracted to BB, SM, role-play. Need psychological depth, communication, growth. You are creative, HIV+, top. ☎ 2824.

Like Older Men?
This attr. senior GWM, 72, 5'8", 165#, understanding & caring seeks gdkg, loving, under 40 boy for ongoing cuddling, kissing & erotic times. Open to LTR. ☎ 2825.

Platonic Gdkg Slim Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, h/s, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, seeks similar guy, nonsexual. Interests: music, opera, piano, science, etc. Smoke & Bars OK SF. ☎ 2826.

HIV+ Need A Friend?
HIV+, any age, seeking good friends? I'm Ita 59, HIV+, healthy, happy & seeking friend to enjoy life with! Not just sex, but share sun, sorrows & activities together! Call me & let's talk—Love ya! ☎ 2827.

Have We Missed Each Other
GWM, 31, HIV+, 5'8", seeking GWM, HIV- for fun times & possible LTR. Must be willing to share quality time w/quiet evenings in front of the tube, cuddling & kissing. ☎ 2828.

My Desires Go Beyond Sensation
Self assured, fiery, nurturing, smooth, alabaster Swazy type, 5'9", 185#, seeking GWM, HIV- for fun times & possible LTR. Must accept truly as intimate companion lover or business partner void of deceptive intent. ☎ 2829.

Hopeful Romantic
43 yo, GWM, 5'11", 185#, dark hair/eyes, masculine, attractive, good build, honest, stable, passionate, loving, outdoors, indoors, travel, sunsets, beaches, kissing, commitment, I'm HIV+, but extremely healthy. Take a chance. ☎ 2830.

Let's Play In The Woods
Seeking emotional & physical intimacy. Me: SF resident, mid 40's, 5'8", HIV-, fit, 135#, hairy, beefy, big shave nipples, masculine loves nature, humor, being playful, my yellow suction cups. ☎ 2831.

In Search Of Soulmates
Biracial, 30 yrs, 5'10", 185#, HIV+, 160#, healthy ISO WPM, 35-45, to establish stable life together. Dark hair & beard A+. Dynamic, love awaits us. ☎ 2832.

Dating & Friendship
Cute Afro-American 25, 5'6", 155#, easy going skdgkng masculine Latins, Caucasians, 24-34 yrs. Be honest, intelligent, sincere & down to earth, also HIV+, single only! ☎ 2833.

You're A Great Guy
Very bright, imaginative, have your own take on life. Not anyone's clone. GWM, 30, 6', 148#, blv/blv, attractive seeks you. Love music, film, irreverence. Any race, 25-35 A+. ☎ 2834.

Does Anyone Like Nice Guy?
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East Bay, cute, gay, black, male, 26, 5'7", 125#, HIV-, NS/MS/ND/NA, seeks cute, GWM, 21-36, HIV- outgoing, well-rounded for LTR, monogamous. ☎ 2909.

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GWM, 29, 5'8", 145#, brn/brn, gym toned, intelligent, spiritual, affectionate, likes weight lifting, movies, cuddling, seeks hairy WM under 36, HIV-, NS w/similar interests in friendship/monogamous LTR. ☎ 2910.

Seeking Asian Companionship
GWM seeks slim, smooth, clean shaven, GAM. I'm nice-looking, 6', 175#, brn/hz, kind, caring, loving, sincere, honest, seeking similar—nice qualities. ☎ 2911.

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I'm a gainfully employed 37 yo in a primary relationship looking for friends to try new restaurants, pool, boating, travel, jazz clubs, etc. I'm of the human race UBZ. ☎ 2912.

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Looking to meet a cute gdkgng, sexy Mexican/Latin guy, 23-32, smooth, toned body, fun & secure. Me: gdkgng, handsome, 6', 165#, GWMM, European/Spanish features, tone body, very fun & secure, NS, gym clone. ☎ 2913.

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GAM, 32 yrs, 5'10", 160#, hairy, hairy body, likes travel, movies, outdoor activities. Seeking GWM, 30-40 yrs, in-shape, husky, dark hair, blue eyes, professional, childlike, sensitive, caring. ☎ 2914.

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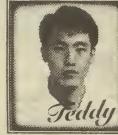
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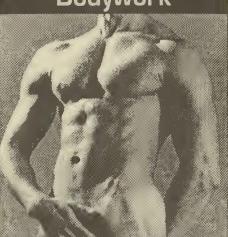
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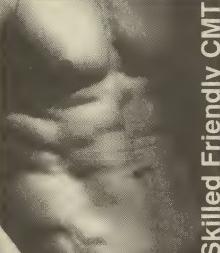
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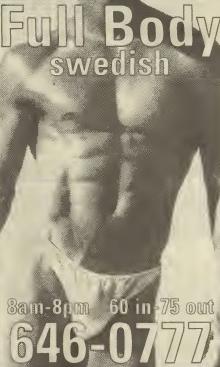
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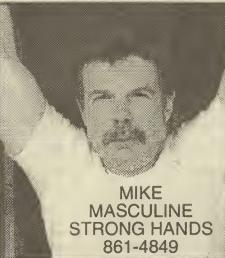
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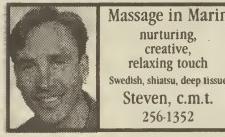
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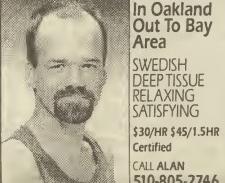

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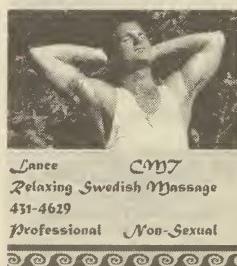
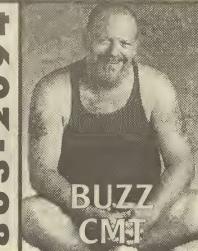
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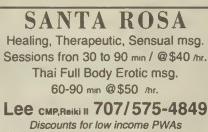
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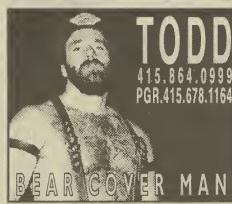
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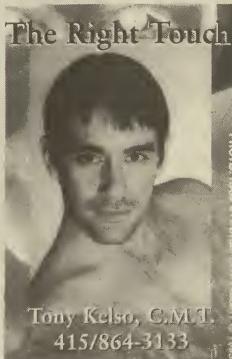


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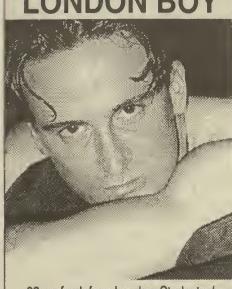


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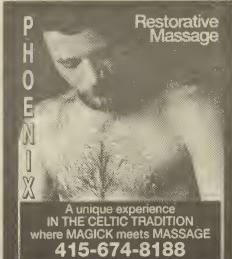
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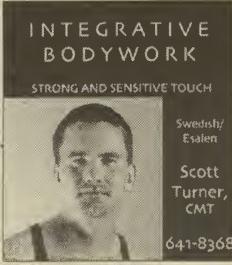
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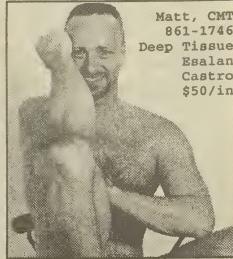
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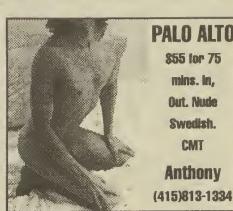


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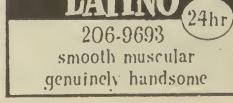
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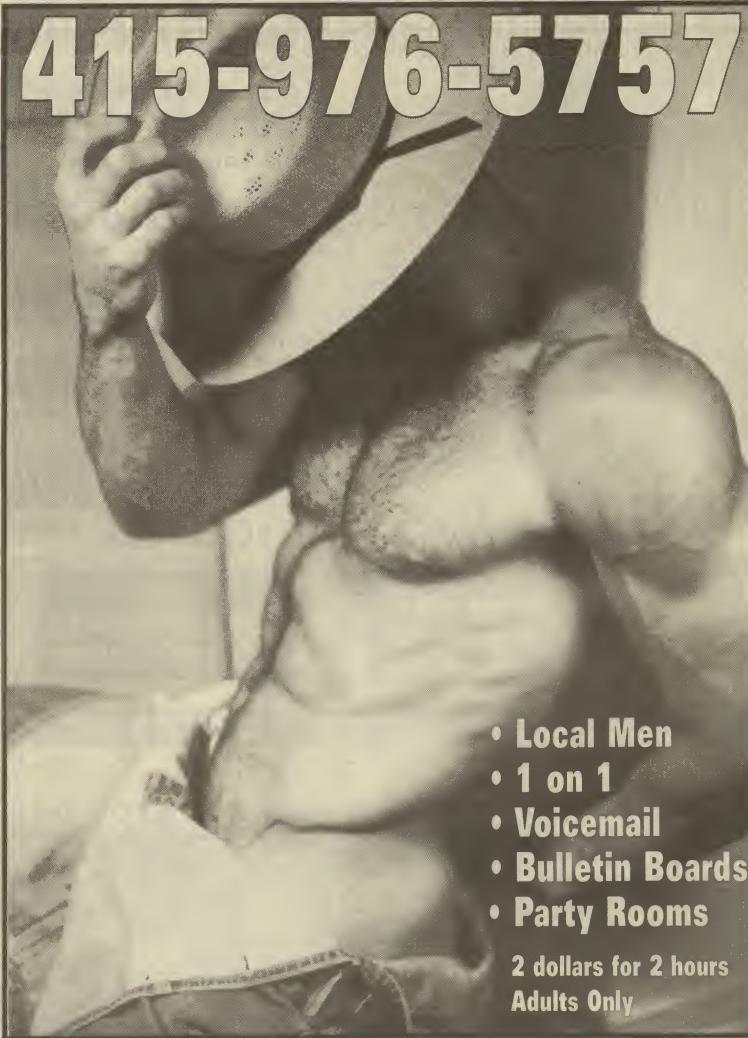
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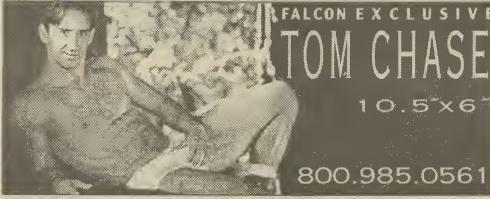
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Cleancut • Sexy Quality
Hung Long & XXX Thick • 24 Hours
OPEN TO ALL FANTASIES

JAMES 415-861-SEXX \$90

Sensual Msg, Escort
& More Hot Jock
Discount for 2 Clients
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Asian Dream

**SONOMA COUNTY S & M MASTER**

Come to this secluded spot out in the country and surrender. Give yourself up to the power of masculine energy. Let yourself be dominated by an experienced and highly-trained master who knows what you want and will give it to you—slowly, sensuously, and powerfully.

LUKE (707) 824-8040

CORY

6'2"
230



50 chest
36 waist
13 feet
27 yrs
Masculine
Friendly
208-5496



THE POWERFUL MASTER in Town
HOT, HAIRY, DOMINANT
Experienced, Most Scenes

Fully Stocked Private Playroom

TOM 487-1296

Cute & Smooth, Bubble Butt

ASIAN BOY
5'3", 115 lbs. Chris Pgr (415) 741-5452

Very Cute European Boy!

BEAUTIFUL BODY
Brown/Blue/Smooth/Tan/Young
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Dominant, Submissive, any scene is yours! Adorable, sincere 22yo Athletic and Easygoing! Nathan 24hrs 487-7662

HOTTY
Sensual Cancerian, Sculpted, Cerebral 6'1", 160 lbs, 20yrs old
Versatile to your whims.
Guy 764-4064

HERE'S THE MEX THE BARE NECESSITIES
HDSME, 5'7", 140 LBS, 7 1/2"
EQUIPPED \$60 IN/ \$80 OUT

PEPITO 771-4702
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NEW MASCULINE LATINO
20 yr, 5'7", 150 lbs.
Pg 389-3673
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Experienced Dominator
DAGEN
6ft slim, smooth STUD
Bondage to Butt Play Top
Totally Equipped Playspace

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Safe Sane Scenes Only
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VERY TONED MUSCULAR

BLACK STALLION 6FT DARK HAIR,
HAZEL EYES, ENJOY THE ADVENTURE. SEAN (510) 440-5953 \$100
OUT WILLING TO TRAVEL HUNG

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
26, 5'8", 155#, Handsome, gyn-toned,
black guy. Versatile, uncut, hand-
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*Extra sexy & masculine video star
COUGAR CASH
Beautiful face & body w/6 Pac Abs •
Bondage and/or Escort • 922-4805

EROTIC SEXY HOT
Worship me! 6ft, smooth swimmer's
Build, chiseled face, defined chest &
Legs, 8" thick uncut, beautiful yummy
ass! Lick me all over! Rex 731-4168

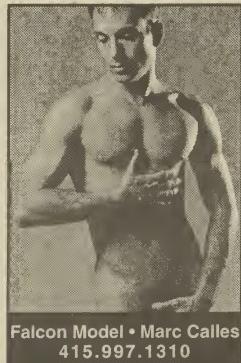
BLOND FUN BOY
20 yr old cute with lots of energy
Sexual, sensual, slender, smart, fun
and affectionate.
Let's play. Jeffrey 440-3983

SEXY BOTTOM BOY
6ft, 170, 19yr
CALL NATHAN 441-0231 AFTER 1PM

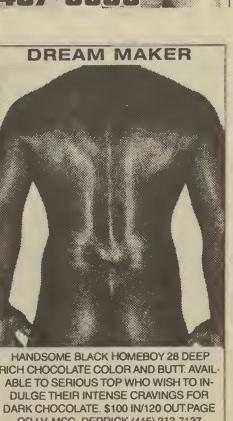
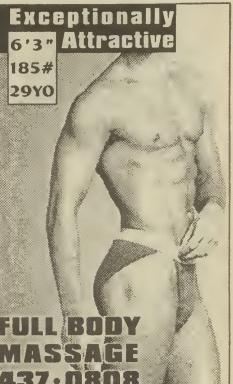
Hot Masculine Top Long Lasting Fun!!
THE 9X7 CLUB!!!
Antony (415) 255-8677 \$90 24Hrs

Adorable Blond Blue Eyed Flat Top
CUTE CUDDLY BOY
Tattooed and Pierced Zach 605-0803 Pg

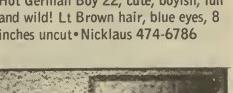
HOT SLENDER GUY
24yo, 6'1", 140#, 29" waist
Rangy, Texas good looks.
Hard, lean, masculine, 8" of fun
Mitch • \$120 • Page: 202-1130



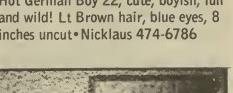
Falcon Model • Marc Calles
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888.200.0761



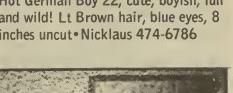
HANDSOME BLACK HOMEBOY 28 DEEP
RICH CHOCOLATE COLOR AND BUTT, AVAILABLE
TO SERIOUS TOP WHO WISH TO INDULGE THEIR INTENSE CRAVINGS FOR
DARK CHOCOLATE. \$100 IN/120 OUT/PAGE
OR LV MSG. DERRICK (415) 313-7127



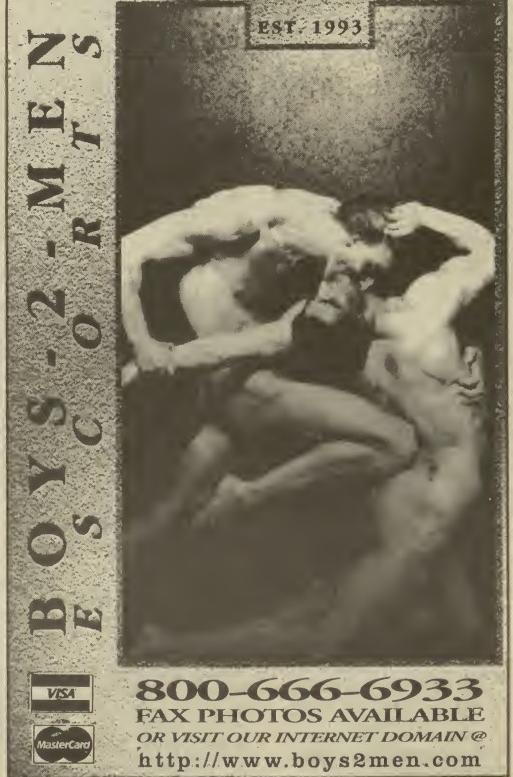
5'8" 140 Sexy Cute Playful
Aaron - 749-9262



Sexy Stocky 22yo w/ a thick tool &
Hot butt Alex \$80 Out 239-HOT-F!



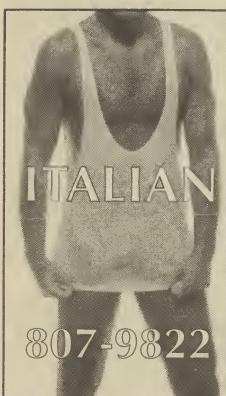
Hot German Boy 22, cute, boyish, fun
and wild! Lt Brown hair, blue eyes, 8
inches uncut! Nicklaus 474-6786



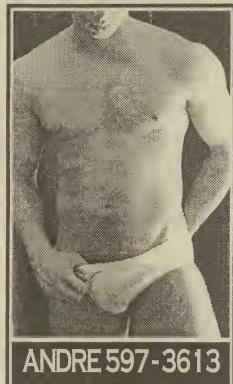
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MODELS/ESCORTS



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Hot guy next door treats you right!
Br. Hair, Br. Eyes
Horsehunk Top Studpoker. 24 Hrs.
Buddy \$85 (415) 861-7399



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Serving All Bay Areas

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Hot Masculine Top
36 y/o • Hairy Chest
Sexy Eyes • Sensuous Mind
BRYAN
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"ARIZONA"
LATIN MAN/BOY 20YO
764.7959

TOP ITALIAN 8" UNCURT DADDY 790-1292

I PLAY GOD • U PAY ME
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BUTCH NAVY TOP
Muscular, masculine, ready for hot
man play. Hard tool into most sex.
In/Out Page: Felix 208-9104

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Big, Nude Asian for hire. Out only. Fun

Beautiful face, Sexy Swimmer's bld.
22YO SEXY ANGEL

Massage, Escort, Stripper, lots of fun
5'8", 135, br/b \$100/hr Chris 998-3571

HOT & HUNG JR. EXEC.
30 yo 6'3", 200, brn/blue, goate, versatile, 24 hrs, (415) 921-8607

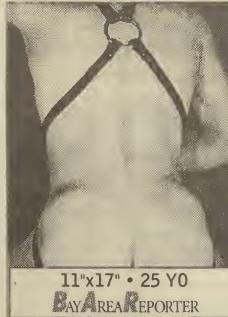
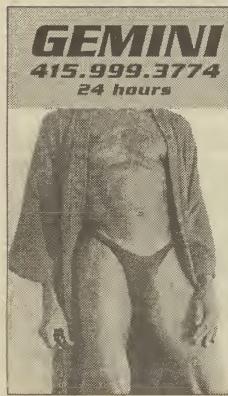
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For New Agency Call (415) 775-4771



ITALIAN STUD - NEW AD
Tight built, aid-back, lean
Smooth & Masculine. Best of All,
Hung... Like A Stallion!
Mario • \$85 • (415) 861-SEXY

Handsome, Sensual, Slim, Pale, 29yo
PAGAN LOVEBUG ARTIST
5'10 1/2", 155#, gm eyes, Go-T, burns.
Sexy gold toothed Topw/grt Kissers & 9
1/2" classic cut beauty, available for oral
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Call Galen+245-5991



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\$100

Hot Kinky Leather Top • Jack 522-8760
FF Expert B/D, S/M, Raunch Out only

Clean Cut Totally Smooth

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With a Swimmer's body Sean @280-8705

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9 THICK INCHES

VERY HARD FOR HOT MEN

Clean Cut 27yo Top
6'2", 180 lbs. 280-7340

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Shy Jeff Pgr 997-7307 In/Out

BLACK BOY MASTER

Hot 24yo into most scenes/fantasies

In/Our pgr 208-6768 Ben

"FIREMAN"

27 yo Masculine Muscular

6'3", 210 lbs Very good looking

You will not be disappointed

Out 679-3168

MAN WITH A FIST-TOYS

Need a helping hand? Slow* Easy* Firm.

I'm great with beginners thru advanced.

Give it up to Nikos•585-1471

E40

LIKE 'EM TALL?

10", STUDPOKER

HANDSOME, GREAT BOB

Pager: 207-5315

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ITALIAN BODY

Body Builder, 230 Lbs.
6'1", 50" Ch, 20" A
25 Years Old
From Italy
207-9337

Extremely Attractive

5'10"
#165
Bull
Blond
27 yrs
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**CAJUN HUNK**
739-0515

devilishly handsome
young hard muscular
body made for sin.

BAY AREA REPORTER**BUFFED BOTTOM BOY**

Sweet, Smooth, Sexy
Masculine & very goodlooking
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Spanking & Tit Torture
Daniel • 621-7525. In/Out

E39

SERIOUS MUSCLE

Real BB, thick, ripped!
Handsome, hung, 9" • 337-4364

E39

23 YR OLD BLACK STUD
Straight looking handsome with boyish
looks, slim build. Easy to talk to, clean &
discreet, hung honest. Top Out Only. \$65

CEDRIC PAGER (510) 639-6576

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CATHETERS • 241-0567

Clean-cut Grad Student,
5'10", 155, Brown/Blue,
Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body
Very Cute, Very Versatile.
Call Jason 24 Hrs 541-5002

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DOMINATION!!!

Bondage fantasies 22 yo 24 hrs • 487-7662

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Italian Stud, gym-toned, defined chest
& legs, 6ft, swimmer's build, bed-
room eyes. Beautiful ass, 8" Uncut,
22 black hair, brn eyes, Outcalls
pref/hotels. Gino 436-0402. Model
looks. Don't you want it now!

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BROTHERS, 25 & 27
Masculine, White, Athletic, Hung
Bone Each Other For Your Enjoy-
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Jason/David • 267-5906

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Masculine Dad

Very Handsome, Hairy, Hung

Day/Nite • Chad • Pgr 313-6336

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HANDSOME PRINCE

Daring 22 yo offers fantasies, massage,
will travel. 24 hrs. Always friendly &
sincere. Buddhist with a radical edge!
In/Out 24 hr Nathan 487-7662

E39

Huge! Hung over 9 1/2" Blond Smooth

YOUNG CUTE PUNK BOY

Hot•Top•Fun Daniel • (415) 267-6990

E39

BLACK DREAM

Hot 24yo, 6ft/200 solid light skin 81/2X5

\$100 In/\$150 Out Rick (415) 208-6768

E39

Foot Fetish • Bpr 834-8170

E39

BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay

Area. Ted • (415) 459-3488

E45

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Blk/Blu

Clean-cut Muscle Hunk

In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

E6-97

Sensual massage by Tall Texan

Attractive Attentive Affectionate

6'6" 195# Bearded, Athletic \$60/in.

WAYNE 252-7443

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X-otic R-otic & Better than Valium!

Well-Equipped Masseur 715-6410-Brad

E39

GORGEOUS JEWISH

Very handsome green/hazel eyes, great

body, gorgeous butt & very well-

equipped. Will fulfill any fantasy. Page

me-you'll not regret 207-6117

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MODELS/ESCORTS

DOMINANT S&M TOP

muscular, handsome, short bearded Top, expert in physical S&M, bondage, esp. C&B work, sensual genital torture. Safe and gradual, surrender control to a master of pleasure and pain. Roger of SF (415) 626-3034



LATIN smooth & sexual great looks 206-9693

Pecs & Nipple Work by muscular guy w/great touch. 100% Ecstasy. 773-9130 E39

Spank & Paddle Expert, Experienced Kory • 773-270 Hot But Fantasies

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs ASIAN TOP \$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817 E39

LEATHERMAN Bondage-S/M-Whips-Kink! Gdkg Topman - Your Fantasy My Talent•JACK•(415) 270-4496 E39

HOT TEEN STUD Gorgeous 18 yo, Blond/Blue Lean, Smooth, Well-Hung 80-100 Byron Pgr 245-4325 E39

9X6 24-HOURS Call: 775-4771 • 24 Hours E39

Private J/O Strip Show Rates adjust to time 10-15 minutes \$20 (in only) 20-25 Min \$30 In, \$50/Out 30 Min. & Up: \$40/In, \$60 Out Tall, Lean, Hung MATT 552-7224 E39

FF, TT, B/D, Toys, Sling + Husky Dad Top, Fisting expert. \$70 hr, \$30 ea add'l. 1/2 hr. (Larger pig-outs arrgd; price varies). Andy • 861-2668 E39

MOTORCYCLE BOY Tall, lean, sexy, cocky, fast bike wants to take you for a ride. Call Jamie (415) 995-4691 E39

VERY HOT MEDITERRANEAN Very handsome, hypnotic Hazel eyes. Great Body, Very well-equipped, hot butt. Intelligent. Friendly & Versatile. Page me Twice please • 207-6117 E39

HIREN MAN Handsome Hung Versatile Tall, Hairy, Blonde/Blue Luke • 24 Hrs • Page: 605-4013 E39

Kicks Back for Service • 24 Hours 10" X 6" UNCUT Big Fat Tool. Pager: 678-1005 E39

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My hands, your hungry butt Daniel 621-7525 E39

STALLION Bpr. # 807-5690 E39

LIFE IS HARD & SO AM I Masc, Athletic, Hung, Top Xtra thick, 30yo, 150#, 5'11" Super Friendly 834-8569 E39

1001 NIGHTS? Right here, gorgeous Arab boy, fun 5'8", 150 lbs, dreamy olive eyes PAGE: MAROC 208-1301 Out/SF/Nite only, After 6PM E39

Allowance isn't Enough!

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Distinguished Age 40 Handsome, Hung, Eight and Thick \$75 • DAVE • 922-3924 E39



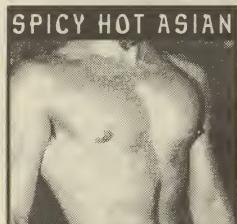
SEXY GUY Hung 9" and the Hottest



775-4771 24 Hrs

MUSCULAR BUTCH-HUNG

baseball biceps, hard buffed body with a power tool ready for action. Pgr: 207-6786 E39



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DAMION 6'4", 235 lbs, Masculine, Muscular, Powerful. All aspects of safe sexual dominant scenes-slap, kick, choke, spank, watersports, scat. 1888.778.4380 E39

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9.5"•Cute Blond Boy•24yo 267-6990 E39

Versatile Experienced Affectionate BOY LOVE

Blond w/Beautiful Blues 28, 5'8", w/7" Smooth as a Baby's Butt Fit Boy Bod Puppy Luv for Heartful Men 313-6072 E39

2 CUTE YOUNG GUYS 1 Blond, 5'10", Blue eyes, short hr. 1 Dk brn, 6', smooth, one or both Both 23, well hung. Page 522-8797 E39

MAGICAL HANDS Slide your butt into our sling And fly away. Loving attention For pigs or beginners. Fistpilots (415) 626-4319 E40

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Uniforms/Leather/S/M/B&D...? Bl/bl, 5'11", 165#, very dominate/masculine. My fully-equipped dungeon (\$100 4 1hr+) 9am-midnite. Hot, fun, & kept very BUSY-WORTH PLANNING FOR! Submissives only, Call Karl now! E39

MASTER MARK COMPLETE DUNGEON 35 yo leatherman-hot! Hoods, gags, E39

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24 yo 8" uncut

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3 HOT ASIANS

21, Goodlooking call Lon 788-0380

DONUTS	.75
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BAGELS	.50
BAGEL W/ BUTTER	.50
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22 yrld Gd

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Bootmaster (415) 626-4319 E40

Masculine Handsome European 8"

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9AM-Midnight. Dominant, fun Top man.

Bl/Bi, 5'11", 165#, Hot playroom, busy man worth planning for Karl 621-5016 E39

DOM SKINHEAD

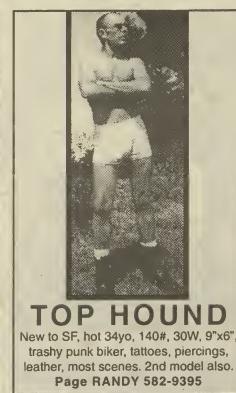
TAKES YOU DOWN 621-5016

Uniforms/Leather/S/M/B&D...?

Bl/bl, 5'11", 165#, very dominate/masculine. My fully-equipped dungeon (\$100 4 1hr+) 9am-midnite. Hot, fun, & kept very BUSY-WORTH PLANNING FOR! Submissives only, Call Karl now! E39

MASTER MARK COMPLETE DUNGEON 35 yo leatherman-hot! Hoods, gags, E39

Foot Fetish • Bpr 834-8170 E39



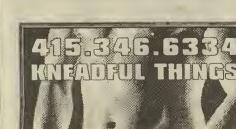
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New to SF, hot 34yo, 140#, 30W, 9"x6",

trashy punk biker, tattoos, piercings,

leather, most scenes. 2nd model also.

Page RANDY 582-9395



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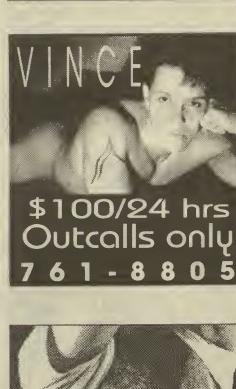
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9X6 FALCON MODEL

RUSTY

LA 280-8260 SF

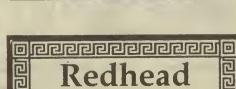


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Smooth, Built Top

27 y.o., 8" x 5 1/2"

Kirk, 708-1981



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slim, sleek and smooth blonde boy at your service! tall, boyish, all-american, 21 years old. call alex 474-6786

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MARIO

Well Built•Well Hung
6'2" • 220#s
Very Masculine, Muscular,
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Handsome Young Bodybuilder
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5'2", 112#, 26, Strong & Smooth
Long Blonde, Hot Butt, Tiny Hands!
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ALL AMERICAN ASIAN
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BEAUTIFUL BODY
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MICHAEL'S ESCORT
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Dominant, Submissive, any scene is yours! Adorable, sincere 22yo Athletic and Easingo! Nathan 24hrs 487-7662

HOTTY

Sensual Cancerian, Sculpted, Cerebral 6'1", 160 lbs, 20yrs old
Versatile to your whims.
Guy 764-4064

NEW
MASCULINE LATINO
20 yr, 5'7", 150 lbs.
Pg 389-3673
219-7331

Experienced Dominator
DAGEN
6ft slim, smooth STUD
Bondage to Butt Play Top
Totally Equipped Playspace
B/D, F/F, T/T, C/B/T, V/A Whip, Spnk.
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**Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.**

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Expiration Date
Signature
Name

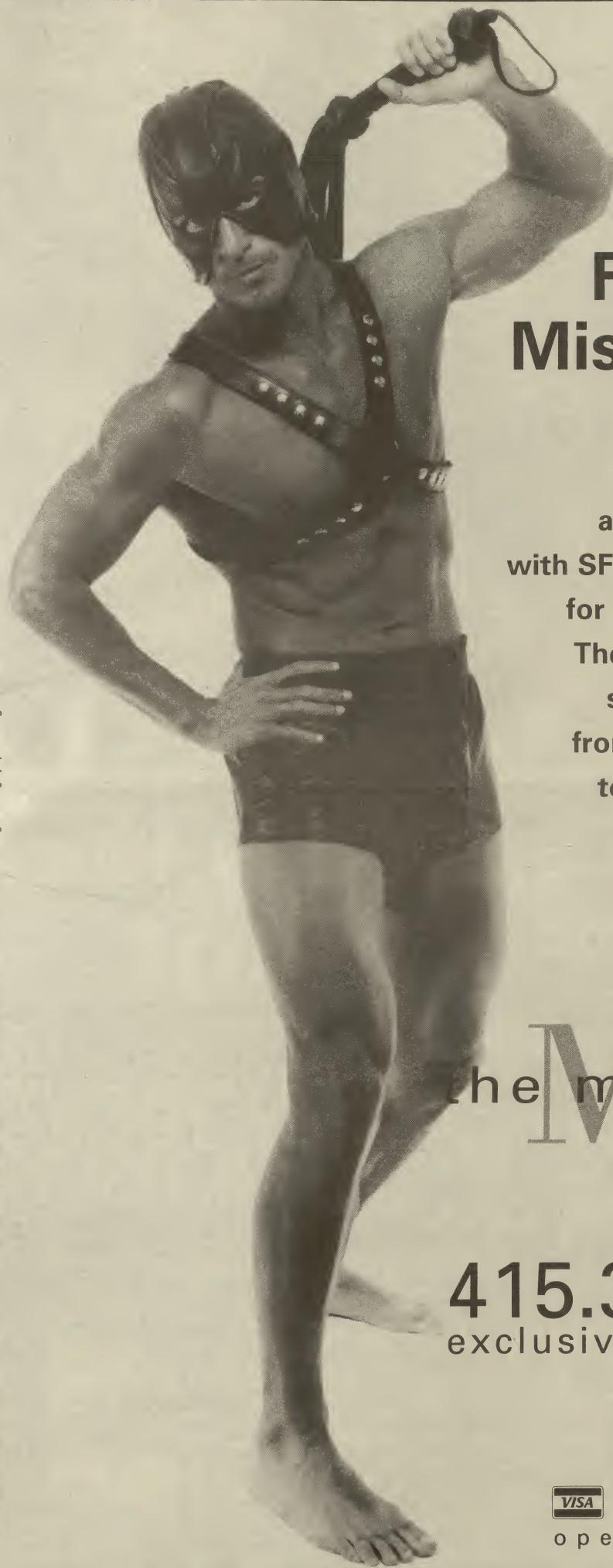
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Address		
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Number of Issues	Classification	Amount Enclosed

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- Professional listings
- Neighborhood bulletin boards
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